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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250



BON RECORD

RECORDS AND REMINISCENCES
OF ABERDEEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
BY MANY WRITERS

EDITED BY

H. F. MORLAND SIMPSON, M.A., F.S.A. (Scot.)
RECTOR

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PREFACE

"Carent quia vate sacro"

It is remarkable that a school so old and famous as the Grammar School of Aberdeen has never found a historian among its thousands of sons, many of them eminent in literature and history.

The present volume is neither a history nor a substitute for a history, but a collection of records from many sources, and reminiscences by many hands. Such a compilation would have been impossible within the limits of the writer's time and knowledge, but for the Extracts from the Town Council Registers, two volumes of which were published for the Spalding Club, and continued for the Burgh Records Society in two more volumes by Dr. John Stuart. For ready access to these and other works bearing on his subject the editor is indebted to Mr. G. M. Fraser, Librarian of our Free Library; and has also at every stage of the book profited by the invaluable works of Mr. P. J. Anderson, University Librarian, his ready guidance on points of obscurity, and his permission to republish his Notes on the Masters, &c. (Appendix I.). In him and in our City Chamberlain, Mr. A. M. Munro, our city possesses two scholars of rare learning and a courtesy in communicating of their stores of knowledge which makes it a privilege to be in their debt. Such merits as this volume may possess are largely to the credit of their scholarship; the defects which the critical reader will detect are all the editor's own, due not only to his inexperience in local antiquities, as

"not to the manner born," but perhaps inevitable in a work produced under much stress of time and other occupations. Such as it is, it is the first attempt to gather into one continuous record the many scattered fragments of our past.

Not only must the future historian of the School be profoundly versed in local records, but possess a wide and intimate knowledge of education in Scotland from the earliest times. For a history of the Grammar School would to a large extent be a history of Scottish education, which, without our records, would at many points be imperfect or obscure. At four widely separated periods of the School's history the reader is presented with a singularly full and minute account of its "doctrine and discipline," with quaint details and vivid personal touches which lose none of their flavour by being reproduced in their original form. In one of these periods, the Statutes and Laws of 1553 are an unique record of a pre-Reformation School. The editor, however, has to confess that his error in dating these Laws as of 1533 has led him into a claim for our School as having been "the first in Scotland to have made provision for the study of Greek," which has aroused not a little concern on the part of other claimants to that honour. On these grounds the claim of Montrose to have been the first to have had Greek taught in it, by Petrus de Marsilliers, a "France man," in 1534, cannot be disputed. We have it, however, from Bishop Lesley, that when King James visited Aberdeen in 1540, he was treated to orations in Greek by the young scholars, "scholastici," of the city ; and this indicates not only an intimacy with Greek which few modern "scholastici" could attain, but a knowledge on the part of those who taught them, which can hardly have been derived from the "France man," and probably reached back a good many years before 1534. Whether these "scholastici"

were Grammar School boys, or, more probably, students at King's College, is another question.

For the other three periods referred to the reader may consult chapters vi., viii., xii.—the best thing ever written on the Grammar School—and the many-sided presentation of Dr. Melvin's personality to be gathered from ch. xvii., now reprinted from the School Magazine. Bearing in mind that these Reminiscences were written for boys, the eminence of the writers needs no further apology to the indulgent reader. They will be read with special interest not only for their echoes of a past rapidly becoming ancient history, but as complementary to the article on "James Melvin" (*Macmillans' Magazine*, January 1864), by one of the most eminent of former pupils, still living, *emeritus* Professor Masson, to whom the writer desires to make grateful acknowledgment for leave to reproduce it in this volume; as also to Dr. Joseph Ogilvie for the portrait of Dr. Melvin; to Sir George Reid (Ch. XVII., v.), the Rev. Dr. P. T. Forsyth (XVII., vi.), and Mr. William Keith Leask (XVII., vii.), for leave to reprint their articles; and to Mr. Louis Wilson, a former pupil, for the excellent photographs here used as illustrations.

It must with sorrow be confessed that chapter v., the Mortifications for the School, is but melancholy reading, far from a "Bon Record" to the civic authorities who frittered away the rich patrimony of the School,—*sunt lacrimæ rerum*. In this respect the School shared the misfortunes of Marischal College, the records of which also throw a lurid light on municipal jobberies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. But apart from this, these documents furnish many old-time details of much interest on the state of education; and without them the record of our School would be very incomplete.

Should this volume meet with sufficient favour and support, it is hoped that the proceeds of it may contribute

somewhat to several School purposes much in need of support and encouragement; and perhaps enable the editor at some future date to add, as a companion volume, the complete Register of the School's *alumni*, from the earliest extant lists downwards.

Meantime this first essay towards our history is dedicated to all friends and lovers of our School, who will this year, present or absent, share in our celebrations of the six hundred and fiftieth year of its known history.

H. F. MORLAND SIMPSON.

MILL OF DESSWOOD, KINCARDINE O'NEIL,
July 10th, 1906.

Postscriptum.—The correct date for the visit of King James V. to Aberdeen is given as 1541 by Cosmo Innes, in his *Fasti Aberdonenses*, p. xxiv, Spalding Club. In Bishop Lesley's *De Rebus Scotorum*, ed. Rome, 1578, p. 430, the passage runs:—"nulla effluxerat dies, in qua aut comoediae in theatrum non inducerentur, aut controversiae ex omni artium genere depromptae non agitentur, aut orationes in Graeca Latinaque lingua, summo artificio instructae, non haberentur . . . singulari scholasticorum laude." His own Scots version tells how the King and Queen were received "with diverse triumphes and playes maid be the town, and be the university and sculis theirow . . . quhair thair was exercise and disputationes in all kind of sciences in the college and sculis, with diverse oratiouns maid in Greke, Latine, and uther languages." . . .

CORRIGENDA

Page 127, line 3, *for* "1796 (?)" *read* "1754 (?)."

Page 143, line 8 from bottom, *for* "Mitchelson" *read* "Mitchel, son of."

Page 147, line 9, *for* "Dr. Pat. Cargil" *read* "Dr. Jas. Cargil."

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PART I

BON RECORD

CHAPTER I

ANNO SAL. MCCLVI

"It belongs to the dignity of the Chancellor's office, that he should supply a fit master, who shall have the direction of the schools of Aberdeen, and know how to instruct the boys in grammar as well as in logic."

Statutes of the Church of Aberdeen, enacted 1256.¹

"Schools" for "school" is common in the early records; see p. 5, n. 1, &c. Such a school for the instruction of choristers, neophytes, &c., must have existed from the earliest settlements of monks and friars in Aberdeen. In the early Town Council records, as will appear below, the Grammar School, along with the Sang School, appears closely associated with the Town Kirk of St. Nicholas, founded in the 12th century. The contiguity of the school buildings and "Schoolhill" to the Black Friars suggests that the school was in some way connected with, if not founded by, the adjacent Monastery; the grounds of which, now covered partly by Gordon's College, lay to the N. and W. of the school. James Gordon's map of Aberdeen in 1661 shows at this point a building with a turret at the west gable-end, which perhaps marks the school, and the belfry which Robert Ferguson in 1625 undertook to build for the bell he bestowed on the school; see p. 110, below.

¹ *Registrum Aberdonense* (Spald. Club), ii. 45: "dignitas autem cancellarij est quod ipse prouidebit de ydoneo magistro qui habeat regimen scholarum de Aberden qui sciat pueros tam in grammatica quam in logica erudire." See also *id.* 49.

ANNO MCCLXII

"Thomas de Bennum" is mentioned as "Rector scholarum de Aberdene."

Registrum Vetus de Aberbrothoc, No. 254, p. 193.

The prefix *de* indicates not merely place of origin, but one of a landed family. Benholm is in Kincardineshire. About the same time "Hugo de Bennum" is mentioned in Keith's *Catalogue of Bishops*, as Bishop of Aberdeen; see also *Reg. Episcop. Aberd.* (Spald. Club), i. p. xxv. Possibly this Thomas de Bennum is the person of the same name who was Chancellor of the Diocese in the year 1276-7 (*Reg. Episcop. Aberd.*, ii. 278).

CHAPTER II

EXTRACTS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL REGISTERS,

1398-1747

1. *Collation of John Homyll as Rector.*

10th October, 1418.

PRO libertate et facultate presentandi Magistrum Scholarum.¹

Vniuersis Christi fidelibus ad quorum noticiam presentes litere peruenerint Duncanus petit cancellarius ecclesie Aberdonensis salutem in omnium saluatore Quia ad dignitatem cancellarie predicte collacio beneficii Magistri Scholarum burgi de Abirdene pleno iure noscitur pertinere et idem nunc de facto vacat per mortem ANDREE DE SYVES² quondam vicarii de Bervy vltimi magistri scholarum predictarum honesto viro prouido et discreto magistro JOHANNI HOMYLL michi per prepositum et communitatem dicti burgi in pretorio suo presentato ad beneficium antedictum et examinato de sua sufficiencia diligenter repertoque eciam bone vite laudabilis conuersationis et honeste magne literature et sciencie propter quam scienciam non immerito in artibus graduatur suis meritis exigentibus per donacionem birreti³ mei contuli beneficium antedictum ipsum in corporalem et realem possessionem eiusdem inuestiendo sibi pro toto tempore vite sue remansuro Supplicans omnibus et singulis quorum interest vel interesse poterit ac autoritate michi in hac parte commissa precipiens atque mandans quatenus pre-

¹ The expression "Schools" is as old as the notice of Thomas de Bennum, ch. i., above; see also Nos. 2, 3, below, &c. It appears to denote "classes," and in this sense survives in the Oxford "Schools." But the Rector's duties may have extended to the Sang School also, in respect of other subjects than music.

² Also a local name, Schivas, in the parish of Tarves: still found in Aberdeen as surnames in the forms Chivas and Shivas. Bervie, in Kincardineshire.

³ Birretum. A covering for the head. The Chancellor "capped" him.

dicto magistro Johanni in omnibus et singulis dictum beneficium suum concernentibus pareant obediant et intendant sub omni pena que competit in hac parte Datum sub sigillo meo apud Aberdon decimo die mensis Octobris anno domini millesimo quadringentesimo decimo octauo.

Extract from Burgh Records, vol. i. p. 5.

(Abstract of the Above)

Duncan, Chancellor of the Church of Aberdeen, by virtue of his office collates John Homyll, presented to him by the Provost and community of the burgh, in place of Andrew de Syves, deceased, formerly Vicar of Bervie, after examination of his sufficiency, and finding him to be of good life, praiseworthy conversation, and skilled in literature and science; and, in token of his graduation in Arts gained by his own deserts, by gift of his own birretta invests him in the bodily and actual possession of the office of "Master of the Schools" for the whole term of his life, and enjoins on all whom it may concern to yield him due obedience under pain of every penalty competent in this locality. "Given under my seal at Aberdeen, the 18th October, 1418."

Between 1418 and 1479 (No. 2) occurs an entry in the *Accounts of the Provost and Baillies*, 1433-38: "Item, xl. s. dat. Magistro scholarum" (Spald. Club Miscell., v. 45).

2. *Thomas Strachan appointed, with £5 Scots salary.*

7th June, 1479.

"The samyn dai, the aldirman¹ and the consal, at the instance of our soueran lordis lettres, my Lord of Aberdenis lettres, and of Maister Alexander Ingliss, chansler² of Aberdenis lettres of request, has grantit and promittit til Maister THOMAS STRATHACHIN,³ maister of the grammar

¹ *i.e.* Provost.

² For his interest in the matter, see No. 1.

³ The old spelling and derivation of this place and personal name. In an entry for 8th April, 1500, the name "David Strathachlin" occurs; see also No. 3. The extract does not give the date of his appointment, but seems to indicate that it had been recent

EXTRACTS FROM COUNCIL REGISTERS 7

scales¹ of Abirdene, that he sal hafe yerly, of the common gude of this toune, fyve pundis of the vsual payment of Scotland, ay and quhil he be promovit til a service within the Kirk of Sanct Nicholess of Abirdene.² And that the alderman that sal be for the tyme sal ger him be content and payit therof yerly, the sade maistre makand diligent and gude service for the informacion and instructioun of the barnyis at his gudely power. Writin the vii day of June the yer forssaid."

Id. i. 36.

3. *John Marshall appointed Master.*

28th June, 1509.

"The saide day, the provest, bailzeis, counsale, and communite, presentit MASTER JOHNE MERSCHELL to the gramar scolis of the saide burghe, vacand be the decess of vmquhile Master Williame³ Strathachlin, possessour of the samyn, for ale the dais of his liwe, and admittit him to the saide scolis, be gift of ane pair of bedis,⁴ with ale commoditeis, fredomes, and profites pertening thairto."

Id. i. 80.

4. *John Marshall recalls his Appeal to the Court of Rome, and admits that he holds the School of the "guyd toun."*

13th January, 1521.

"The said day, MAISTER JOHNE MARSCHELL, maister of the grammer scvyll⁵ of Aberdeen, inquirit be the provest quhome of he had the said scoyll of Abirden.⁶ Grantit in iugment, that he had the samyne of the said guyd toun offerand him, reddy to do thame and thair barnys servuice and plesour at his power, and ranuersit his com-

¹ See note on No. 1, above.

² This method of paying the schoolmaster by finding him something else to do, a "perquisite," is still not unknown in England; see note on John Byssat, extract No. 7, note 1, below.

³ But see No. 2. Is this an error, or was there a second Strachan between 1479 and 1509?

⁴ Namely, two rosaries, a long and a short one?

⁵ The first (?) instance of the local pronunciation, for which see Byron, ch. vii.

⁶ The question probably arose on some dispute as to the powers of the ecclesiastical and the civil authorities. John Marshall gives way, with the proviso that he may sue in the ecclesiastical courts (to which alone priests might be subject) any who poached on his monopoly of teaching "grammar."

pulsatour of the Curt of Royme in all poyntis, except that it suld be lesum to him to persew the techaris of gramer within the said burgh afor thair iugis ordinar, insafar as he mycht of law. And that the towne kepand to him ald wse and wont, liik as thai dyd to the maister of the samyn in all tyme bigane."

Id. i. 97.

The dates of the above and of the next extract do not agree with that in the Chartulary of St. Nicholas, *vide* note to No. 7 below, which shows John Byssat Rector in 1519. Kennedy's authority for placing John Byssat's appointment as late as 1529 is probably extract No. 7, below.

5. *John Marshall admits that he had the School of the Town.*

27th November, 1523.

"The said day, MASTER IOHNE MARSCHEL,¹ master of the gramar skull of Abirden, grantit in iugment that he had offendit to his masteris of the towne, and besoucht thaim to pardone him, and confessit thaim that he haid the schoull of thame, and suld hald the samyn lik as his predi-cessouris haid downe in tyme bigane; and the prouest, in nayme of the haile toune, ressaut him thankfully, permitt- and to be him [*him to be*] a gud master in tyme cuming, he being than a gud seruand, as accordis him to do."

Id. i. 107.

6. *On the Master's complaint that the School is ruinous,
it is to be built and repaired.*

13th October, 1527.

"The said day, the maister of the grammar schuill ex-ponit to the town that thair grammar schuill was decaden and abill to fall down. And thereafter the provest, bailzeis, consail, and communitie, commandit and chargit thair maister of kyrk wark to big and mend the same one the tovnnis expensis, and that incontinent."

Id. i. 120.

¹ On and Oct., 1525, Mr. Iohnne Merschell is witness to an oath of the burgeses to defend their city and fishing rights against the attacks of Alex. Setoun of Meldrum, Leslie of Wardhouse, and others, to the number of fourscore spears, or thereby, under silence of night, . . . (*id. i. iii.*).

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7. *John Byssat's salary fixed at ten merks.*

10th January, 1529.

"The saide day, the hale toвне being convenit in the tolbuith one thair heid court, consentit and grantit, all in ane voce, to the seilling of MAISTER JOHNE BISSATIS¹ pensoun of ten merkis, gevin to him be the said tovn, for the weill of thair grammar skuill and thair barnis, lik as is contenit in thair band maid to him one the said pencione at lynth; and ordanit the keiparis of thair commone seill to seill the samyn band, in the best sort, with the tovnis commond seill, on the quhilk the said Maister Johne tuik instrument. Vitnes Andro Wod, Robert Wood, Gilbert Tulidef, Schir² David Lorimar, and Maister Johne Nicholsoun, notar publick, with wtheris diuerse."

⁴ Id. i. 121.

8. *John Byssat granted £10 Scots to pay his Board.*

7th May, 1529.

"The saide day, the haill townn being convenit within the tolbuith, for the maist part be thair hand bell passand throw all the rowis³ of the toune, for certane actionis concerning thair commond weill, and tha being circularie inquirit be Duncane Mar, bailze, consentit and grantit, ilk man for thame self, and also all in ane voce, to gif

¹ On 8th Sept. 1519, "Magister Ioannes byssat ludi grammatici rector manu propria," as one of the chaplains of St. Nicholas Church, signs the Foundation of Alexander and Gilbert Malysone. *Cartularium Eccl. S. Nicolai Aberd.* Ed. James Cooper, S.T.D., i. 153 and ii. 136; also again in i. 171, ii. 148, as follows:—

"Ioannes bissat Magister scole manu propria" attests the Foundation of Dame Margarete Chalmer.

On the first passage above Dr. Cooper has the following note:—

"A chaplaincy in the Church of S. Nicholas was the readiest method of providing a salary to the Rector of the Grammar School. Thus 'in 1479, Thomas Strachan was presented to the mastership with a salary of only £5, Scots, until he should be provided with a chaplaincy in S. Nicholas Church' (Kennedy, *Annals*, ii. p. 122). . . . In regard to Mr. John Byssat, Kennedy seems to be wrong in the date of his appointment as Rector of the Grammar School—he gives 1529: this charter shows him in office ten years earlier. He had a notable history afterwards at King's College." "Coram testibus magistris Iohanne Marschell," &c. But, *id.* ii. 126, Mr. (*i.e.* Rev.) *John Marschell* is the first to witness a charter, 5th Mar. 1522 by Wm. Philipson, endowing the Vicar and Chaplains of the Choir.

² Probably a "pope's knight," *i.e.* priest.

³ Rows. Fr. *Rue*, e.g. Guestrow, Shiprow.

MAISTER JOHNE BISSAT, maister of the grammar skuell, yeirlie and termelie, at tua termis in the yeir, be ewinlie porcionis, the sowme of tene lib. Scottis, to help to pay his burd aye and quhill tha prowid him ane benefice, peceable, of tene merkis Scottis, for all the dais of his liwe, for the rewill and gydin of thair skuell, teching of tham, because now thair said skuell is desert and destitut of barnis,¹ and wilbe ane lang tyme or it cum to perfec-tioun, that he ma get meikle proffeit thair of, and ordinit thair band to be maid to hym thairone in the maist sour wise, in the prowest, bailzeis, counsall, and communitieis behaffis, wnder thair secreit seill, hawand the strynth of thair commond seill."

Id. i. 122.

[At this point the chronological history of the school may be continued by The Laws of John Vaus, see ch. iii.]

9. *Hugh Manro (Munro) appointed Master: the Chancellor protests.*

17th January, 1538.²

"The said day, the haill towne, present for the tyme, geff thair fre electioun to the chesing of thair maister of thair gramer skoull, to the provest, balzes, and consale, quhilkis var present for the tyme, and inclosit in the consalhouse, quhilkis for the maist part chesit MAISTER HEW MANRO, on his gud bering, and ordanit him to pas to the chanselar of Aberdene, and desyre his admissioun tharvpoun, conforme to our souerane lordis request maid to the said prowest, balzes, and consale, wnder his graces signet and subscriptioun, on the quhilk the said Master Hew tuk nott and instrument."

¹ The population of the town, estimated by Kennedy, *Annals*, at 3600 to 4000, suffered heavily from successive visitations of the pestilence in 1498, 1506, 1514, 1530, 1538, 1539 ("the Botch"), 1546, 1549, 1603, and in 1647. In the last year 1600 persons died of it. The same author estimates the population in

1581 at 5833 persons

1592 " 7301 "

1615 " 7805 "

1633 at 8000 persons

1643 " 9000 "

1699-1708, at 6000 persons

the decline in the last period being attributed to the threefold scourge of the Civil War, Famine, and Pestilence, the rapid growth before 1643 being no less due to peace with "our auld inemeis of Ingland."

² Viz. 1538, or 1539, of our reckoning.

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"The said day, Maister Laurens Chene, scribe of the consisterie of Aberdene, in name and behalf of ane rycht virschipfull clark, Maister Johne Reid, cancellar of Abirdene, and commissar generall of Abirden, exponit to the prowest and consale how he had chosin ane abill, conwenyent, discreit man, to be maister of thair gramer skoull, callit Maister Robert Skeyne, beseikand thair maisterschipis and the haill towne to ressaue hym thankfully, for sic steid and plesur he mycht do thaim in tym cumyng, becaus the admissioun and presentatioun of the said maister pertinit to hym, as he allegit; and gif the said Maister Robert vas nocht abill thairfor, nor vsit hym nocht for the commond veill of thair barnis, he sald remoif him and imput ane wther in his rowme mair abill thairfor be thair awyse; quhilk, gif thai refusit, he protestit solempnitly, that quhat thai did in the said mater suld nocht hurt his rycht, and for remeid of law quhene tym and place requirit. On the quhilk he tuk not, vytnes the provest and balzes, except Vm. Rolland, with the maist pairt of the consale."

Id. i. 151.

10. *The Master and the Boy Bishop to have four shillings of every honest Freeman on St. Nicholas' Day.*

27th November, 1542.

"The sayd day, the haill consell, present for the tyme, all in ane voce, ordanit that the maister of the grammar scuyll sell haf iiij s. Scottis, of the sobirest persoun that resauis him and the bischop¹ at Sanct Nicolace day, till his vage, at the leyst, and euere vder honest men to gif him at thair plasour; and gif ony honest man of ony reputatioun, oder craftisman or vder, haldis furth

¹ Viz., the boy bishop. "The custom of electing a boy bishop, begun probably at monasteries for the amusement of the younger inmates, became common at universities and schools. The election of the boy bishop appears generally to have been on St. Nicholas day, from which, 'till Innocent's daie at night' (it lasted no longer at the first), the *episcopus puerorum* was to bear the name and hold up the estate of a bishop answerably, habited with a crosier or pastoral staff in his hand, and a miter upon his head; and such an one too some had, as was (saith one) verie much richer than those of bishops indeed." Gregorie's *Episcopus Puerorum, or a Discoverie of an Ancient Custom in the Church of Sarum.* *Id.* i. p. xxv.

The day of St. Nicholas, Dec. 6th. was specially appropriate, as the patron saint of children, and also of the town of Aberdeen.

the bischop and giffis hym nocht entres, he sell pay iiij. s. to the maister, and viij. s. to the baillies onforgewin for thair wnlaw, and ordanis the officiaris to pound and distrenze for the samin; and that because it ves considerit be thaim that he has na vder fee to leif on, lyk as his predecessouris hed afor him, and vder maisteris of vder scuiles.

"And als that euery honest man, freman within the said burgh, baith merchandis and craftismen ressaue him and the bischop at Sanct Nicholace mess within thair houssis, conforme to the auld lovabill vse of the said burgh, and gif him thair wagis of the auld maner, effer-and to thair estatis, as tha think expedient. And gif ony honest man, merchand or craftisman, that ma guidly gif his wagis, ressaue him nocht and the bischop at the same tyme, that he sall complane on the dissobeyaris to the bailzeis that hapnis to be in office for the tyme, and tha to caus him to haue his duyte of thame, be the avise of the consale, to the auld vse of this said burgh."

Id. i. 186, and Pref. xxvi.

11. *Master Hew Monro to have a yearly "Pension" of ten merks.*

14th July, 1544.

"The said day, the haill consell present for the tyme, all in ane voce ansignyt, grantit and gaif to thair servitour, MAISTER HEW MONRO, maister of the gramar scuill, ane yeirly pensioun of tene merkis vsuall money of Scotland, to be payt to him yeirly be the denis of gyld, at twa termes in the yeir, Mertimes and Wytsonday, be equal portionis, during all the dayis of his lyf, or ay and quhyll thai provyd him to sum vder leving, tak or stading of the toun, als mekill profyt yeirly as the said sowme extendis to, and that for his diligent laubouris and curis to be maid be hym in tym cuming, for the instructioun and learnyng of the barnis of the scuill, baith in sciens, moners, vrytingis, and sic vder vertewis concerning thaim, lik as the said Mr Hew promytit in his bill gewin in to the consell to do and fulfill at his wtter power."

Id. i. 202.

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12. *Master Hew Monro to have good and thankful payment of his ten merks yearly.*

25th March, 1546.

"The said day, the counsale, present for the tyme, consentit, all in ane voce, that MAISTER HEW MONRO, maister of the grammar skuilhill of the said burgh, have guid and thankfull paiment of the tovvn of his yeirly pentioun of tene merkis Scottis mone, conforme to the act maide thairupoun obefoir, sa lang as he remanis continevaly and techis in the said skuilhill as he aucht and suld do of ressoun. And als that euery honest man," &c., as above, in No. 10.

Id. i. 231.

- 12a. "Item to Mr. Hew Monro, 40 lib." *Dean of Guild's Accounts*, 1548-51, Spald. Club. Miscell., v. 51.

13. *Dave Anderson, the Under-Master, "invaded" in the Kirk by Gilbert Kintore, fetched the scholars out to his aid. Gilbert's brother Dave is "strikin and strublitt" with a stick by a scholar named Skeyne.*

24th January, 1549.

"The said day, Gilbert Kintor¹ is conuikit be the corne assise aboun writin, Maister Robert Lumisdan thair shancelar, for inuading DAUE ANDERSOUN, doctour² in the grammer skuhill of the said burgh, in Sanct Nicholace Kirk of the said burgh, villand to haue strikin him; and also the said Daue Andersoun and John Robertsou ar conuikit be the said sorne assise, be the mouth of the said chancelar, for the out feching of the barnis of the said grammar skuhill, and the invading of the said Gilbert Kintor, and Daid Kintor his brother; throw the quhilk invading, the said Daid Kintor was strikin and strublitt be ane scholar, callit Skeyne,³ with ane tre; quherfor

¹ For Gilbert Kintore and Mr. Robert Lumsden, see *Rec. Mar. Coll.* i. index.

² Doctor, probably the first mention of an under-master in the school. He is not Maister, a graduate, and was perhaps only a student-usher. Perhaps John Robertson, below, was also his colleague.

³ Tradition says that this was the famous Sir John Skene, Clerk of Register, so well known to the student of Scots law and history, according to Grant, *Burgh Schools*, 67 n., but he gives no authority for the tradition.

ather of thame is in ane amerciament of court, and that is gevin for dome, and the mendis heirow continewit to be modifeit be the counsale; and the said Daid Kintor and MASTER HEW MONRO are quit of all strublande be the said assise, and Daid Kintor is becum lauburrowis¹ for his brother, Gilbert Kintor; and als the said Gilbert is becum law² for the said Daid, and Wm. Farquharsoun for Maister Hew Monro, and Maister Robert Lumisden for the said Daue Andersoun, and Richart Vatsoun for the said John Robertsoun, that the tovvnn and partys respectiue, salbe harmeles and skaythles of thame, and all that tha ma let in tymes cumyng, bot as law vill, vnder the pane of law."

Id. i. 265.

14. *Hew Monro and his family to return to his house, but remain eight days in quarantine [after the Plague?].*

4th November, 1549.

"The said day, the prouest, bailzeis, and counsale, present for the tyme, licent MAISTER HEW MONRO to pas to his lugin quhair he dwelt afor, with his vif,² seruandis, and barnis, sua tha remanit viij dais nixt heirefter inclusit, and come nocht furth nor ressaue nane of his guid moderis houshold in thair house, and als handlit and vsit all the geir in the house and biging, and mak fayth thair-upoun. And forder, to remane quhill tha gat licence of the counsale to pas furth in braid. And als licent Jonat Anand, his guid modir, and hir seruandis and barnis, to pas furth to kirk and merkat to thair lesum besines, sua that nane of thame pas to the said Maister Hewis, nor yit ressaue nane of his in her house."

Id. i. 275.

15. *Hew Monro resigns the Mastership, and receives £40 Scots.*

14th April, 1550.

"The said day, MAISTER HEW MONRO, maister of the grammer skuilhill of Abirden, resignit, renuncit, and ouer

¹ Surety, that he would keep the peace.

² Maister Hew Monro was therefore a layman, married, and able to support a family and servants. His household has evidently been visited by the pestilence, which was rife in Oct. 1549, as entries in the T. C. Reg. show. The sick were removed to temporary shelters on the Links. He may now return, the invalids being convalescent, must still suffer eight days' quarantine, and his good-mother (mother-in-law) Janet Anand is also free of the pest, and now able to go "in braid" (abroad) on her lawful business, but not yet to visit her daughter, Master Hew's wife.

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gaif, puirlic and simplile, in the prouestis handis in iugment, in name of the haill towne, the office of the grammer skuilhill of the said burgh, with all proffetis, casualteis, and accidentis thair of for euer, to be disponit be the said town as thai thocht expedient; for the quhilkis the haill tovvnn, conuenit as said is, grantit, gaif, and assignit fourty pundis Scottis mone to the said Maister Hew to be pait to him at thir termes folloving: that is to say, twenty pundis at Vitsounday nixt cumis, tene pundis at Mertimes nixt cumis, and vther tene at Vitsonday nixt thereafter, in the yeir of God j^m fifty ane yeiris, in compleit paiment of the said fourty pundis; and ordinit Dauid Mar, ane of thair denis of gild, to pay him the same of the radiest of the tovnis mone intrometit with be him, and ordinit the same to be alovit to him to his nixt comptis."

Id. i. 276.

16. *James Chalmers appointed Master.*

18th April, 1550.

"The said day, the townn beyng convenit in thair gild court for the maist part, representand the haill tovvnn, nemmit and elekit MAISTER JAMES CHALMER, all except vij or [viij] personis, to be maister of thair grammer skuilhill, now vacand in thair handis be renunciatioun and dimissiou thair of be MAISTER HEW MONRO, last maister of the same, and gaif thair guid villis tharof to the said Maister James induring the townis vill,¹ and presentit him as abill therto to the chancelar of Abirdene to be admittit be him therto as vse hes bene tharof in tymes bigane; on the quhilkis the prouest tuik act of court and instrument."

Id. i. 277.

17. *James Chalmers to have ten merks salary.*

10th October, 1550.

"The said day, the prouest, bailzeis, and counsale, present for the tyme, grantit, gaif, and assignit to thair

¹ *I.e.*, not *ad vitam aut culpam*. They have had to buy Hew Monro out, and are more cautious with his successor.

louit MAISTER JAMES CHALMER, maister of thair grammar skuill, tene merkis Scottis mone of yeirly pentioun, to be pait to him yeirly, in the tovnis name, be thair denis of gild, at tua vsuale termes in the yeir, viz. at Mertimes and Vitsunday, be tua evinly portionis, and begynnand the first paiment thairof at Mertimes nixt cumis, and thairefter to induir and continew during the said tovnis vill, and that for the said Maister James guid seruice, to be maid be him in the said skuill, in teching, lerning, giding and revling the barnis thairof, for the commond veill of the said burgh."

Id. i. 278.

18. *James Chalmers deprived of his stall in the church, on his appointment as Regent in King's College.*

5th November, 1557.

"The said day, the consell dischargit MAISTER JAMES CHAWMER of his stall and place quhilkis he hes amang the breither and college of the queir of thair parroche kirk of Abirden, because he was presentit thairto to teyche the barnis of thair grammar scuill as mayster thairof, and hes voluntarily left the said cuir, and past in seruice in the new college of Ald Abirden, to be ane regent thairin, and sa hes tint and left the said place, and aucht to haf na rowme, place, nor profit therof in tym cuming, to the quhilkis the haill breithir of the said college consentit and grantit, for the caussis forsaid, being chepdourlie¹ conuenit the vij[?] day of Nouember instant."

Id. i. 306.

¹ Chapterly, in chapter. There seems no reason to doubt the date following, if the above entry or the last part of it "to the quhilkis," &c., was posted into the T. C. register after the chapter meeting, which would follow on the Council's action. On the 8th October, 1558, the "commounds" of the vacant stall were bestowed by the Council on Richard Reid, "singer," and the Council "obleist thaim to stand, concur, and assist with the said cheplaniss in the defens of the pley [*i.e.*, ploy] mowit be the said Maister James [Chowmer] for his pretendit tytill of the said stall, befor quhatsumeuer juge, spirituall or temporall." In an entry for 8th Oct., they bestow a yearly "pension" of 22 merks Scots on "Mr. John Blak, maister of thair sang scuill," for his service in the parish church, "and for the lernning and instructioun of the barinss of thir sang scuill." *Id.* i. 313-314.

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19. *Master John Henderson appointed to a chaplainry in the Kirk.*

3rd July, 1559.

"The said day, the prouest, ballies, and counsell admyttit MAISTER JOHNE HENNERSON, maister of thar grammar scuill, to the cheplanry of Sanct Michaelis altar,¹ vithin the proche kirk of Abd., being at the dispoune and donacioun as patronis thairto, and being in thar hands throw the deces of Maister Johnn Watson, last possessor and cheplane thairof, he making seruice at the said altar, conforme to the foundatioune, and vsing the office as maister of the said scuill, and no uder wyss, and ordinis ane presentatioune to be gewin him thairupoun under the tovnis secreit seall."

Id. i. 324.

20. *Master John Henderson's salary raised to 50 merks.*

21st March, 1560.

"The said day, the baillies and counsall consentit and grantit to augment MAISTER JOHNE HENDERSOUNE maister of thair grammar scuillis pensioune quhilk he had obefoir witht² the sowme of tuentye merkis,³ makand in the haille the sowme of fyfty merkis vsuall money of Scotland, and ordanis his interes thairof to be at the feist of Witsonday nixt to cum; and obleissis thame to caus him hawe payment of the annuell rentis and deutice of his cheplanry of Sanct Michell, within thair parroche kirk of Abirdene, of all termes restand bygane, he gewand in his rentall and restis awand to the thesaurar, Daid Mar; and failzeing thairof, thay ordaine the said thesaurar to ansuer and obey the said Maister Johnne of ten merkis for the said augmentatioun of the Martimes terme last bypast, and the same to be alowit to the said thesaurar in his nixt comptis."

Id. i. 326.

¹ Endowed in charter by Matthew Fechat, 18th July, 1472, *Cart. Eccl. S. Nicholai* (Spalding Club), i. 87: "summa huius capellanie vij lib. xvijs iiijd." (*id.* ii. 77).

² The addition of a *t* after *h* is characteristic of the period, e.g., *furtht*, *burght*, *southt*, *aytht*, *publiet*, *lauchtfully*, &c., are analogous. Similar forms in *Pitscottie*, and *Lyndsay of the Mount*.

³ "Item to the chaplanis of the cathedral kirk, 6 lib. . . ." "Item, to the mastir of the grammar skuill, for his zeirlie fee, 20 lib." *Treasurer's Accounts*, 1559-60, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 111.

21. *The Scholars complain that their old Holidays have been abrogated; Holidays granted from Dec. 21st to Jan. 7th.*

9th January, 1569.

[The Reformation is now in full swing: the "Congregation" very busy in the south. Blackfriars and Whitefriars have been destroyed; Greyfriars saved only by the vigorous action of the authorities, stimulated by the Earl of Huntly, and by the Provost, Thomas Menzies of Pitfoddels, of a family of Catholics staunch to the last. Here is a quaint echo of those troublous times]:—

"The said day, anent the supplicatioun presentit be epistill in Latin be the scolars of the gramair scuill, anent the abrogatioune of thir awld priuilegis and libertie in remaining absent fra the scuill, and compellit be Maister Johnne Hennersonne, thair maister, to conveine at sick tymes as thai war in use and preuelege of libertie and skaling¹ obefoir. And siclyk, anent the complent of thair said maister exhebet to the consell of the enormitie of his saidis scollaris, and desirit that the counsell may commit to him sic order as they wald him to obserue perpetualie in tymes cuming; and the consell being ryplie awysit thairwpoun, decernit and ordanit that the bairnis and scollaris of the said scuill sall haf previlege and libertie to remain fra the scuill, thai kepand guid ordour quhair thai please, fra Sanct Thomas evin befor Youll quhill vpon the morne efter the Epiphanie² day allanerlie, and all wther preuilege of skaling quhilk was vsit at ony tyme in the yeir of befor, to be dischargit and abrogatit in all tyme cuming."

Id. i. 366.

21a. *Two Scholars murdered by wilchcraft of Janet Wishart.*

May, 1572.

"Item, Twentie four yeir sensyn, in the moneth of Majj, or thairby, quhann thow duelt in the Schoillhill,

¹ Departing from school.

² 21st Dec. to Jan. 7th. As we shall see, the "bairnis and scollaris" were by no means satisfied with this scanty concession.

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nixt adiacent to the duelling of wmquhill Adam Mair, Thow was apprehendit be umquhile Androw Brabner, younger, John Leslie, son to wmquhile James Leslie, in the Gallowget; Robert Sanders, wricht; Androw Simsoun, talyour; and ane Johnsoun, scollaris, steilling furth of the said wmquhile Adam Mairis yard, at twa houris in the morning, greyn growand bear [*i.e., stealing green growing 'bear' or barley*]: And thow thann instantlie, being revelit be the saidis scholaris to the wyif of the said Adam, thow, in thi furie, ansuerit and said to the saidis scholeris, Weill haif ye schemit me, I sall gar the best of yow repent; and or four efternwn that thow suld gar also monny wounder on tham as suld sie tham. Wpon the same day, betuixt twa and thrie houris efter nwe, the saidis scholaris past to the Auld Wattergang in the Linkis, to wasche tham, and eftir thei hed anes waschin tham selffis and dryit agane, the saidis John Leslie and Johnsoun tuik ane rink or raice besyid the Wattergange, and maist desperatlie, throw thi witchecraft cassin on tham, rann in the middis of the Wattergang and drownit tham selffis. And thairby thow, as thow promesit, murtherit tham.

"This is testifeit be Robert Sanders, wricht, and Androw Symssoun, talyour, thair present, yit on lyiff."

"Johnnet Wischert, spous of Johnne Leyis, dittay anent hir wichcraft; the Assize; and her convictioun, xvii Februarij, MD.XCVI." For these and other deeds of witchcraft, Janet Wishart was convicted on eighteen points of the dittay, and "the Justice ordainit hir to be brint to the deid."

Spald. Club Miscell., i. 86, &c.

22. *Master William Carmichael granted a salary of 50 merks.*

10th December, 1575.

"The said day, the counsell for the maist pairt being present, grantit, consentit, gaiff, and disponit to thair servitour, MAISTER WILLIAME CARMYCHALL of thair

Grammer Schuill, for bringin up, teching, and instructing of the barnes and schollaris thair of, in vertew, lerning, letteris, and guid manneris, all and haill an yeirlie pensoun of fiftie markis vsuall money of Scotland, to be payit to him be the thesaurar of the said burgh yeirlie at twa vsuall terms of the yeir, Vitsonday and Martimes, be twa equall portionis induring all the dais of his lyfytyme, vpon his quiet bering, and induring their villis."¹

Burgh Records, ii. 24.

23. *The Yule Holidays are again abrogated.*

22nd December, 1575.

"The said day, the provest and bailleis and maist part of the counsell being conuenit, consultand upoune ane act of previlege grantit be thame to the barnis and schollaris of thair Gramer Schuill, fra the tuentie day of December to the sevint day of Januar,² to have their libertie fra lering and discipline induring that tyme, the consell heirwitht being ryplie aduysit and consultit heiron, findis inconuenientis followand thairon, quhairfor thai witht adwysiment annullis and abrogatis the forsaid act and preuilege, to hawe na strentht nor effect in na tyme cuming, and this to be deuulgat and publicit at the croce, swa that giff thai be ony particular personis of the town fortifiaris fra than furtht of the inobedience of the abrogatioun, thai to be callit and accusit as brakaris of the commoun weill, and inobediens to the town."

Id. ii. 24.

¹ This *caveat* is deliciously naive, leaving Maister Williame absolutely at their mercy, without redress.

² See No. 21, above. The Saints have gone, even the Apostles and commemoration of Christ's Epiphany. The sourness of a joyless inquisition is creeping over the "braif brocht," with what degree of acceptability to the "barnis and schollaris," see Nos. 26, &c., below. In the next entry, January 25, 1575, eight deacons of the craftsmen are hauled before the council to answer for observing 25th December "as ywill day (Yule), holding the same holyday, and abstaining fra labour for the maist, witht festing and playing," contrary to the act made by "my Lord Regent Grace and Lordis of Secreit Counsell," on the 18th August 1574, at his being in Aberdeen. They answer that they had been already accused "befoir the minister [Mr. John Craig] and assemble of the Kirk," and "purgit thame selfis thereof particularlie," "that thay manteinit nocht the said superstitious festivall dayia."

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24. *Master William Carmichael complains that his salary will not meet his family charges; the fees are raised to 3s. 4d. quarterly.*

9th October, 1579.

"The said day, anent the supplicatioun presentit to the consell be MAISTER WILLIAME CARMICHAELL, maister of the grammer schuile of this burght, makand mentioun that he hes his familie to sustene to his gryt charges, and all thing is becum of darar and grytar pryces nor thai wont to be, als weill viuaris and victuallis as the exercitioun of all craftis, swa that he dow nocht to tak sic diligent cair and labour in his vocation and office as he presentlie dois, except the toun of thair gudnes be content that the scholage of the scholaris be augmentit, to the quhilk the prouest, ballies, and consell, grantit, for dyuers respectis and consideratiounis, and consentit to gif him for euerie bairne of induellaris of this toun, three s. iiii. d. (the purrell¹ being exceptit) euerie quarter of the yeir² during the consell will, quhill thai altar this present ordinance."

Id. ii. 33.

25. *Thomas Cargill appointed Master, with a salary of 50 merks.*

5th September, 1580.

"The said day, the prouest, baillies, and consale, acceptit, receavit, and admittit MAISTER THOMAS CARGILL to be maister of the grammer schuill of this burgh, to instruct thar barnis in knowlege and maneris as it becumis him of his office induring his guid seruice and the will of the consell, and ordanis him to haff the samen yeirlie

¹ Fr. *pauvraille*, the poor.

² Viz., 13s. 4d., or 1 merk Scots the year.

stipend quhilk MAISTER WILLIAME CARMICHAELL,¹ his pre-
dicessour, last maister thairof, had of the toune, obefoir,
towit fiftie merkis."²

Id. ii. 38.

26. Yule again: the School taken by the Scholars. Scholars
in future to find cautioners.

21st December, 1580.

"The said day, the prouest, baillies, and consale,
reasonying and consalling vpon the enormities committit
be disourdourit barnis and schollaris of the grammer
schuill of this burgh, and vtheris schulis within the samen,
in taking of the schuill, vsurping aganis the maister and
magistrates this tyme of yeir afoir yuill callit natiuite of
our Lord, thairby fosterand the ald ceremonie and rite of
preuelege that was wont to be grantit to thame, quhilk
the consell obefoir throchlie aduysit hes altogidder abro-
gatit and dischargit;"³ for remeid thairof that na sic
attemptatis nor enormities be committit in ony tyme
heirefter, the prouest, baillies, and consale hes statut and
ordanit that in all tyme cuming, all gentilmannis soneis
to landward as burgessis soneis within the burgh that sall
happyn to be presentit to ony maister of schuill within
this burgh the scholar and barne sall, be the maister to

¹ "Maister William Carmychell, maister of the gramer skwill of Aberdein, departit the penult day of July, 1580 yeris." *The Chronicle of Aberdeen*, Spald. Club Miscell., ii. 53, which contains the following note of Cargill's appointment: "The xxvi day of August, the yeir of God 1580 yeris, thir personnis eftir writtin teichitt in the kyrk, quha haid desyrit to haife beine maister of the gramer skwill of Aberden, and that be dissesse of Maister William Carmychill, presedent maister thair of; that is to say, Maister Thomas Moreson, Maister Alexander Freser, Maister Robert Wilyemson, Maister Wilyem Gray, Maister Thomas Carnigill; the saidis personis beand hard and tryitt be the clayrige present for the tyme; that is to say, be Maister David Cunnyngayme, bischoip of Aberden; Maister Alexander Arbuthnott, prensPELL of the College of Aberden, Maister Walter Stward, sub-princepell of the said College; Maister Thomas Burnett, commisser of Aberden; Maister Alexander Skeyne, adwocat afor the Lordis of the Sessioun; and Maister John Skyne, his broder: the said office of the maister of skwill was adiugitt be the said clairge to be gewin to Maister Thomas Carnigill, as the best clayrk, and wordiest thair for; for the quhilkis the said Maister Thomas gaitt presentatione be the prouest, bailieis, and consell of the said office of maister of skwill, the penult day of August, the yeir of God 1580 yeris."

² "Item, to the maister of the gramair schuill, for his fee for the saids two termes, 33 lib. 8s. 8d." *Treasurer's Accounts*, 1577-78, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 114. The sum should be £33, 6s. 8d. = 50 merks.

³ See No. 23, above.

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quhome he is enterit, be presentit to the prouest and baillies, or euer he be receavit within ony schuill of this burgh, and sall set cautioun of burgessis, induellaris of Abirden, that the scholar presentit sall obey the magistrat and maister and sall nawayis vsurpe aganis the ordinance of the consell, wnder the paine of ten poundis more of penaltie, to be paid be the cautionar for the barne transgressing, and ane act to be maid thairon, and the barne and cautionaris name registrat in the townis buikis, and this act to be publist oppinlie in the puipit on Sunday nixt."

Id. ii. 39.

27. Yule again: the Scholars seize the School. Three days holiday each quarter are granted.

26th December, 1581.

"The said day, the provest, ballies, and consale taking ordour with the disordourit barnis and scholaris of the grammer schuill of burght, quha presentlie hes takyn the schuill,¹ mening to haue the ald privilege quhilk was wont to be grantit to thame at this tyme of yeir about yuill, quhilk altogidder the consale obefoir be diuerss actis² and statutis had dischargit, remittit and dischargit frelie the saidis scholaris of all offenceis bypast, and statut and ordanit in presens of the maister of the said grammer schuill, and the maist pairt of the saidis scholaris, that na privilege salbe grantit to thame, nor na scholaris of the said grammer schuill, nor yit na uther schuill withtin this burght, at the tyme of yuill in na tyme cuming; and in place thair of, the provest, ballies, and consale ordanit the saidis scholaris to haf, in the begynnyng of ilk raith or quartar in the yeir, thre dayis, makand in the haill twelf dayis in the yeir."

Id. ii. 45.

¹ The following items are perhaps an echo of these disorders:—

"The xx. day of Januar heireftir, payt for making of brist of the vyndok [*window*] tymmer, and also to the grammer skuill, 1 lib. 15s. Item, for twa pair of yrin bandis, 7s. Item, the tent day of March heireftir, payt for the glessin wyndok to the skoull, contenit twelf futtis, 2 lib. 2s." *Dean of Guild's Accounts, 1581-82, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 53.*

² See Nos. 23, 26 above, also No. 59.

28. *Thomas Cargill complains of a Poacher on his Privileges.*

29th April, 1586.

"The said day, anent the supplicatioun and complent of MR THOMAS CARGILL, maister of the graymer schule, upon Johnn Cuming, noter, quha haldis ane scule, teiching barnis, abstracting thame from the principall scule without his licence and tollerance, and also without consent and admissioun of the prowest, bailleis and counsall aganis all gude ordour, the saidis prowest, baillies, and counsall dischargit the said Johnn Cuming of halding of the said schule quhill thay be forder aduysit."

Id. ii. 58.

29. *The School Buildings to be repaired.*

24th September, 1589.

"The said day, the counsall underwretten, &c., de-
vysit and ordanit the deanis of gild to mend and repair
thair Grammer Schuill, in thak,¹ vindois, and uther neces-
saris, of the first and reddiest siluer that thai haue or sall
happin to ingett, quhilk sall be allowit to thame in thair
comptis."

Id. ii. 66.

30. *Precautions against fresh Troubles at Yule. No Scholar to be admitted without a cautioner.*

12th December, 1589.

"Memorandum on the ordinance to be maid, anent
the barnis of the Grammer Schoill of this burght, and

¹ Roof, not necessarily a thatched roof. Thus, in the Chartulary of St. Nicholas, the expression "lead thekk" occurs. But an entry in the *Treasurer's Accounts*, 1594-95, "Item, for mending the grammer scoole with hedder, 50s." Spald. Club Miscell. v. 118, shows that the roof was thatched with heather. In 1598-99, the Dean of Guild repaid 6 lib. to T. Cargill "quhilk he haid debursit on the reparatioun of the grammer scuill," *id.* 71. The *Dean of Guild's Accounts*, 1612-13, *id.* p. 90, also have, "Item, the 22nd of December, for repairing the grammer schole, the thak thairof being blauin aff. Item for ane tree to be lathe, and ane deale to be ane vindhew, 1 lib. 3s. 4d. Item, for sawing the tree, 6s. 8d. Item, for naillis, 8s. Item, for work-manship, and mending thairof, 2 lib. 15s. 4d. Item, the 20th of Januar, at command of the provest, geffin for ane new window to grammer schole, 3 lib. 6s. 8d."

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uther schuilis within the samen, for setting of caution be euerie barne and scholar befor his entre to the schuill and be receavit be the maister, that the scholar and bairnis sall sett caution, ane burges and ane indwellar of the said burght, for obseruing of guid ordour, obedience to the maister, and that na disordour sall be usit be him in tacking of the schule befor the superstitious tyme of yuill, or ony uther tyme within the yeir, ilk barne under the paine of ten pundis, and repairing be thame of the brakingis, demollesing of deaskis, vindowis, durris, and that the maister receave na bairne quhill he find caution actit in the tounis buikis as said is for ilk intrant, and receave the clerkis ticket thairupoun."

Id. ii. 66.

31. *Thomas Cargill complains of another Poacher, who is ordered to desist.*

22nd March, 1593.

"The said day, anent the complaynt gewin in be MAISTER THOMAS CARGILL, maister of the grammer school of this burght, aganis Mr Daid Kanzie, for the teiching of grammer within this burght, instructing of bairnis in oratrie, poetrie, and sic as belangis to that liberall science, without licence, libertie and previledge grantit to the said Maister Daid, be the prouest, bailleis, and consall, and the said Maister Thomas, maister of the grammer school, usurping theirby the said Mr Thomas place, to quhom onlie it is lesun, and to sic as he sall deput wnder him, to teich grammer within this burgh, as the said previledges grantit to the said Mr Thomas, and utheris maisteris of the grammer school of the samen befor him, schawin to the prouest and bailleis dois testifie, upon the quhilk complaynt the prouest and bailleis having callit and convenit the said Maister Daid, fand be sufficient tryell tackin be thame that he did teich grammer within this burght, and instruct bairnis thairin, without licence or tollerance of the prouest and bailleis, and of the said Mr Thomas, and held ane publict grammer school, express aganis the ordinances sett down obefoir, and privileges grantit to the

said Mr Thomas, and that the said Mr David had done wrang theirthrou; in respectt quhairoff the prouest and bailleis decernit and ordanit the said Mr David to desist and ceas in tym cumming from all teiching of bairnis in grammer, or haulding of ane grammer school to instruct thame, without licence had and obtenit be him of the prouest, baillies, and consall, and of the said Mr Thomas to that effect, upon the quhilkis the said Mr Thomas tuik act of court and instrument."

Id. ii. 90.

32. *Thomas Cargill's Commendation of the Earl Marischal to be printed.*

"TO MR THOMAS CARGILL, to caus print certane verse in Latin in commendatione of my Lord Merscheall for erecking the new College in Aberdeen, at the Counsallis command, 3 lib."

Id. ii. Pref. xxxii., from *Treasurer's Accounts, in Spald. Club Miscell.*, v. 117.

33. *The Master's exclusive Privileges are reaffirmed.*

31st August, 1597.

"The said day, the prouest, baillies, and consall, aduysitlie considdering that the institutioun and erectioun of the grammer school of this burght, and all wther burrowis of this realme, hes that privilege and prerogative that thair is na uther school within the burght, except the musick school, without a licence had and obteinit of the maister of the grammer school, and theirfor ordanit that their sal be na maister nor teicher of any school within this burght in tyme cumming, (except of the sang school), bot sic as sal be subalterne to the maister of the grammer school, and sic as sal haue gude will and licence of the maister of the grammer school to hauld the samen."

Id. ii. 154.

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On 25th October, 1598, the above ordinance was so far modified as to allow "Johne Thomesone and Margrat Forbes, his spows, Merzoun Cheyn, spows [to?] Johne Banis" to teach only "maidyne bairnis . . . and to haif na man doctour vnder thame" (*id.* ii. 171).

The *Treasurer's Accounts*, 1596-97, contain an entry of "80 lib. to the Maister of the grammer school, for his pensioun of the saids tua termes."

Spald. Club Miscell., v. 120.

34. *Six pounds voted to repair the ruinous and decaying Buildings.*
13th December, 1598.

"The said day, the prouest, baillies and consall, ordanis Alexr. Kempt, dean of gild, to deburse the soume of sex poundis, to help to repair the grammer schoole presentlie ruynous and decaying, quihilk soume sall be allowit to him in his comptis."¹

Burgh Records, ii. 176.

[On August 4, 1601, intimation was made of the yearly thanksgiving to be held on the 5th August for the delivery of King James VI. from the traitor Gowrie, August 5, 1600 (*id.* ii. 219); no market was to be held on that day or labour done, and the magistrates to sing psalms through the streets, the cross to be decked and hung, and "ane tabill to be sett thairat, and the wyne and spycerie to be drunken and spent, and a nvmer of glassis to be cassit and brockin in signification of thair reiocing and glaid hartis" (*id.* p. 221)]; moreover:—

35. *£20 (Scots) voted to Thomas Cargill for his Latin treatise on King James VI.'s escape from the Gowrie Plot.*
22nd September, 1601.

"The said day, the prouest, bailleis, counsall, and audictouris of the townis comptis, remembering the

¹ See note to No. 29, above.

labouris and travellis takin be MAISTER THOMAS CARGILL, maister of the Grammer School of this burght, in macking of ane treatise in latin congratulating his Majestie's delyuerie, for his Grace's preseruatioun fra the lait conspiracie attemptit aganis his hienes persoun, be umquhill the Erll of Gowrie, conteining some commemoratioun of this burghis antiquitie and privilegis, grantit thairunto be his Majestie's predicessouris, quhilk he dedicat to this burght, thairfor ordanit the sowme of tuentie pundis to be gevin to the said Mr Thomas, for gratefeing of his panis takin in the said mater, to be payit to him be Alexr. Burnett, maister of the impost, &c."

Id. ii. 222.

36. *David Wedderburn and Thomas Reid appointed Conjunct-Masters, at a salary of 80 merks between them.*

6th February, 1602.

"The quhilk day, the prouest, bailleis, auld and new counsallis of the said burgh, efter dew tryall and examinatioun had of the literature and qualificatioun of MAISTER DAVID WEDDERBURNE and MR THOMAS REID, craving and suting to be maisteris of the grammer school of this burght, vacand be deceis of vmquhill MAISTER THOMAS CARGILL, last maister thairof, be publict teiching in audience of the prouest, bailleis, consell, and leirnit men betuixt the tua townis, on oratrie and poesie, and be compositioun in prose and verse be the space of four dayes, acceptit, ressaut, and admittit the said Maister David and Maister Thomas to be coequal and coniunct maisteris of the grammer school of this burght, for instructioun of the youth in the airt of grammer, gude letteris, and maneris, as becumis thame of thair offices quhill the feist of Candilmes nixt to cum, in the yeir of God j^m sex hundreth and thrie yeris, vpoun thair gude service and diligence to be takin be thame in the said office, and during the will of the counsell allanerlie, observand and kepend the injunctionis to be gevin and prescryvit to thame be the counsell, anent concord to be betuixt thame-selffis, teiching of the youth in thair lessones, bayth of

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grammer, and authoris, and vsing of discipline, and ordanis thame to hawe the anniversarie stipend quhilk the said vmquhill Maister Thomas Cargill had obefoir : to vit the sowme of fourscoir pundis to be payit to thame be the thesaurer of this burgh at Witsonday and Martimes be equall portionis, and to hawe the same salarie and scholage payit to thame be the townis barnis, as was payit to the said vmquhill Maister Thomas Cargill, viz., sex s. aucht d. in the quarter, and thrie schillingis four penneis quhilk was in vse to be payit to the doctour, extending in all, quhilk the townis bairnis sould pay quarterlie, to ten schillingis, and na mair to be payit to thame, and to hawe sic salarie and scholege of the landwart bairnis, as the said vmquhill Maister Thomas was in vse to tak or sie as thay may hauve of thame of thair awin liberalitie, the towne being alwayes disburdenit be the said maisteris of all finding of doctouris, seing the salarie in vse to be payit to thame is now appoyntit to be payit to the saidis maisteris ; and Alexr. Cullen, prouest, with the baillies and dyveris of the counsall past to the said grammer schooll, and gawe to the said Maister Dauid and Maister Thomas institution of the said office, be delyuering to thame of ane grammer buke, to be coequall and coniunct maisteris as said is, quha gawe thair aythis for thair diligent and faithfull discharge of the said office, instructing of the youth in gude letteris and maneris, and cairfull attending on doctrine and discipline at all houris."

Id. ii. 223.

[Two remarkable men, probably the best Latinists of their day in Scotland. Their lives at large may be read in the ordinary Dictionaries of Biography. David Wedderburn was born about 1580, and died about 1646. An account of his life and writings is given in *Collections for a History of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff* (Spald. Club), p. 60, and in the *Wedderburn Book*. For further notices of him from the Burgh Records, see below.

The appointment of the conjunct Masters was duly celebrated: "Item, for ane disione [*dejeuner?*] to the maisteris of the grammer schole quhen thai wer admittit, 2 lib." *Dean of Guild's Accounts*, 1601-2, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 73.

In Professor Cooper's *Cartularium Eccl. S. Nicholai* (Spald. Club) occurs the following inscription on a tombstone in St. Nicholas, as given in James Logan's *Ane Accurate and Minute Description of the East Kirk*, 1818 (MS. in the Library of the Society of Advocates, Aberdeen):—

... ID ... WEDERBVRNI ... LECTISS ... IVX ... THEATRV ...
VIRTVTI HIC ... NA SEPVLCHRO ... GERIT HIC PARTES ... FAMA SE ...
OBIIT ILLA 29 OCTOB. 1613

VA
crossed by a later inscription, 1635

Unfortunately the length of the gaps and the order of the lines are not indicated. The phraseology and rhythm point unmistakably to a quatrain of Latin Hexameters, commemorating the wife of David Wedderburn, an accomplished writer of Latin verse. The inscription may be thus reconstructed:—

[DAV]ID[IS] WEDERBVRNI LECTISS[IMA CON]IVX
[DESERVIT VITAE MORBO CONFECTA] THEATRV[M]
[DEDITA] VIRTVTI HIC [NVNC CONDITVR V]NA SEPVLCHRO
[VIR] GERIT HIC PARTES [QVAVM BONA
SOLAS QVAS] FAMA SE[QVETVR?
CVTA EST?]
OBIIT ILLA 29 OCTOB. 1613.

Perhaps the second line contained her name. The tense of *Gerit* must refer to a survivor, *i.e.*, her husband, and the phrase *gerit partes* was suggested by the metaphor in *theatrum*. Did the later inscription, dated 1635, refer to a daughter? Besides many *encomia*, &c., which Wedderburn wrote as Poet Laureate¹ of the town, in 1636 he produced a Latin Grammar and Vocabulary, for which the Council voted him £100 Scots. This was long used in Scottish schools, till superseded by the work of another eminent Latinist of Aberdeen, *Ruddiman's Rudiments*, which was still in use within the memory of many yet living. Wedderburn, owing to bodily infirmity, resigned the mastership in 1640, and was granted a pension of 200 merks yearly.

¹ See p. 54, note 2.

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As Cargill received £50, see No. 25, the "doctor" must have had £30. Wedderburn and Reid are to have the total £80 between them, and do without a "doctor."

According to the *Wedderburn Book*, Wedderburn married 1st, Janet Johnstone, by whom he had one son; 2nd, Bathia Mowat, by whom he had two sons, William and David, and five daughters, Bathia, Margaret, Janet, Jean, Bathia, most of whom died young. Wedderburn was buried *gratis* in S. Nicholas' Church.

Thomas Reid, of the Reids of Pitfoddels, soon after his appointment as conjunct master, became Professor of Philosophy at Marischal College, and "Secretary to His Majesty for the Latin Tongue." For his portrait and many notices as to his life, and for his benefactions to the College, see Mr. P. J. Anderson's *Records of Mar. Coll.*, i. 194 ff., esp. 196 n., and index. He died in 1624.]

36a. *Grant to the School Servitor.*

10th February, 1602.

"Item, to Mr. George Mackie, servitor of the grammer school, for his panis in attending on the school, fra the deceis of the maister thairof till the new maisteris wer admittit, conforme to ane ordinance of counsall maid thairanent, of the dait the tent of Februar, 1602, 10 lib."

Treasurer's Accounts, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 129.

37. *"The Conjunct Masters to have an advance of the salary due at Whitsunday.*

24th February, 1602.

"The said day, the prouest, baillies and counsall, vpon the supplicatioun of Mr DAVID WEDDERBURNE and Mr THOMAS REID, maisteris of the grammer schoole of this burght, ordanis Willeam Dwn, thesaurer, to advance to thame thair stipend quhilk thay hawe of the towne of

the Witsonday nixt to cum, extending to the sowme of fourtie pundis, quihilk sall be allowit to the said thesaurer in his comptis."

Burgh Records, ii. 225.

37a. The Scholars to sit under the new Loft in the Kirk.

27th February, 1603.

"The samin day, anent the bill gevin to the sessioun be MAISTER DAVID WEDDERBURNE and MAISTER THOMAS REID, maisters of the Grammer Schooll, mackand mentioun, That in tymes bypast the scholeris of the said schooll, quho suld hawe bene edifeit in godlines be the hering of the word, hes bene, aganis conscience, neglectit in that poynt, be reasoun thay sitt in sic a place quhair thay can not heir the voce of the minister; desyring thairfor, seing thay are the seminarie of the kirk and commoun weill, to prouid sic a place for thame as thai may heir and may be instructed; lykas, the maisters promiseit to be diligent in exacting ane compt of everie ane of thame, particularlie efter the sermones, as at mair lenth was contenit in the said bill: Quhilk being red in sessioun, and thay thairwith being advysit, fand that the place quhair the bairnis of the Grammer School sittis is altogidder incommodious for heiring, the same being directlie behind the pulpitt in the auld kirk, on the north syd thair of, and thairfor appoyntit and ordanit that in tyme cuming, fra this furth, the scholeris of the said Grammer Schooll sall sitt everie Sonday in the new kirk, on the degreis [*steps*] vnder the new loft, quhair they will boith heir and sie the minister of the word."

6th March, 1603.

"The samyn day, the session considdering that the seattis vnder the loft in the new kirk quhilk wes appoyntit for ane place to the bairnis of the Grammer Schooll to sitt in, in tyme of preiching on the Sabboth day, will not

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contene the halff of the bairnis, thairfor findis it meit and expedient that sa many of the scholeris as ar cum to discretioun of yeirs, and ar habill to giff ane compt of thair edificatioun, sall sitt in the loft of the said new kirk, and thair tak nottis of the preichingis, and ane of the maisters of schooll to sitt with thame in the said loft *per vices*, and the remanent bairnis, of les aige, to sitt on the seattis and degries vnder the said loft, and the vther maister with thame, to gif attendance that na disordour nor perturbatioun be maid be thame in tyme of preiching; and that the scholeris cum into the kirk everie Sunday befor the ringing of the third bell."

Records of the Kirk Session of Aberdeen, Spald. Club, 1846, p. 25.

38. *David Wedderburn intends to enter the Ministry and resigns his Mastership.*

20th April, 1603.

"The said day, in presence of the prouest, baillies, and counsall, comperit Maister Daud Wedderburne, ane of the twa maisteris of the grammer schoole of this burght, and exponit and declarit that he being vrgit and burdenit be the lait provinciall assemblie of the ministrie hauldin in this burght, to accept vpon him the function of ane minister of Goddis word, wes resolut to enter in the said functioun, and obey God calling him thairto be the said assemblie, and to leave and desert the said school, and thairfor cravit the consent and approbatioun of the saidis prouest, baillies, and counsall, with thair testimonie of his dewtifull discharge of the said office, and of his former lyff and conversatioun: and the consall having censurit and tryit the said Mr Daudis diligence in the said office of maister of schole, sen the tyme of his admissioun thairto, and als his bypast lyff and conversatioun, fand that the said Mr Daud hes faithfullie and dewtifullie dischargit himself in the said office during the hail tyme that he exercit the same, and that he hes bein of guide lyff and conversatioun, and thairfor gawe thair consent and approbatioun to the said Mr Daud to embrace the said

halie function of the ministrie, and ordanis ane testimoniall to be gevin to him of his dewtifull discharge of the said office of maister of schole, and of his honest and gude behaviour in tymes past, and instantlie the said Mr Daid voluntarlie and frelie demittit and ouergawe to the counsall, in name of the towne, his said office of maister of the grammer schooll of this burght, to be prouydit and suppliet be the counsall as they sall think maist expedient, quhilk dimissoun the counsell acceptit and ressauit, and in the meintyme ordanit Maister THOMAS REID, the vther of the maisteris of the said schooll, who was coequall and coniunct thairin with the said Maister Daid, to continew in exercing of the said office, be him selff allane, and his doctouris and vnder teacharis, quhill the counsall be farder advysit."

Burgh Records, ii. 238.

39. *Wedderburn withdraws his Resignation
and is reponed.*

[*Abstract.*] On 7th September, 1603, Wedderburn, now being otherways resolved not to leave his said office, craved to be reponed: his desire was thought reasonable, and he was readmitted on the same terms as before.

Id. ii. 244.

40. *Thomas Reid resigns and Wedderburn is
appointed sole Master.*

[*Abstract.*] On the 12th October, 1603, Master Thomas Reid, lately elected to be one of the Regents of Marischal College, resigned his conjunct mastership of the Grammar School, and Master David Wedderburn was appointed to be full master by himself alone, and to have the whole stipend of £80, and the salary and scholage paid before to the late Mr. Thomas Cargill, viz., 6s. 8d. a quarter to the master, and 3s. 4d. to the doctor, from town's bairns, in all 10s.; sons and bairns of gentlemen

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and others to landward to pay 13s. 4d. quarterly to the master, and 5s. to the doctor: Wedderburn not to quit his office without leave and six months' notice, for which he is to find caution in the sum of 300 merks, for which David Anderson,¹ elder, became cautioner.

Id. ii. 246.

*41. Yule again: the Scholars have again held the School,
and despoiled the Neighbours of Vivers.*

10th January, 1604.

"The quhilk day, the prouest, bailleis, and counsall, with consent of the commonaltie, convenit this day in thair heid court, considdering the disordour and dissolute behaviour quhairin the scholaris of the grammer scholl of this burght falls into about the superstitious tyme of yuill, in tacking of the schooll, keping and haulding of the same aganis thair maister, with swordis, gvnnis, pistollis, and vtheris wappynis, spuilzeing and tacking of pur folkis geir, sic as geisse, foullis, peittis, and vtheris vivaris, during the tyme of the haulding thair of, and repyning altogither to the correctioun and discipline of the maister, tending not onlie to the fostering of the superstitious keping of holy dayes, but also breeding in the scholaris hartis a contempt and misregaird of thair maister, and furnesing to thame occasioun of boldnes to rebell aganis his discipline, besyddis that the pur folk that cummis into the towne for selling of vivaris are spulzeit and reft thair of, and na satisfacioun maid to thame of the samen, to thair gryt hurt and skayth, and sklender of this burght and magistrattis thair of; for avoding of the quhilk disordour heirefter, statutes and ordanis that it sall not be lesum to the maister of the grammer schoole to ressaue nor admit ony bairnis duelling to landvart, nather yit ony townis bairnis, to the scholl in tyme cumming, quhill the parent of the bairne or sum freynd cum, in presence of ane of the baillies, and find cautioun actit in the townis buikis, that the said bairne sall navayes repyne to the ordour and

¹ Wedderburn's uncle, nicknamed "Davie do a'thing" from his great ingenuity.

discipline of the maister, and that he sall nawayes tak the schooll, nor be airt or pairt in tacking thair of, at yuill nor na vther tyme of the yeir, vnder the paine of tuentie pundis to be incurrit be the cautionar of the scholar contraveining this present ordinance, sa oft as he beis convict for contraveining the samen, to be payit to the deane of gild, to be applyit vpon the commoun effaris of this burgh."

Id. ii. 251.

42. *Complaints against Wedderburn of extortionate Fees.*

24th October, 1604.

"The said day, anent the greiffis gevin in to the prouest, baillies, and counsall, be a gryt number of the communitie of this burgh, complaining on Maister David Wedderburne, maister of thair grammer schooll, for certane abuses and extortionis laitlie enterit and raisit in the said schooll, by [*beyond*] all good ordour or forme, namelie for tacking of gryter salarie and scholedge, baith of landwart and townis bairnis, nor is prescryvit and sett down to him in the act and ordinance of his admissioun to the said office, of the dait of the tuelff day of October, the yeir of God j^m sex hundreth and thrie yeiris,¹ viz. : in tackin of tua merkis in the quarter of landwart bairnis, thair of tuentie schillingis to him selff and sex shilling aucht penneis to his doctour; and tacking threttene shillings four penneis of townis bairnis in the quarter, thair of ten schillingis to him selff and thrie shilling four penneis to his doctour; quhairas be the ordinance of his admissioun he is appointit to tak onlie of landwart bairnis, in the quarter aughtene shilling four penneis, thair of threttene schilling four penneis to him selff, and fyve schillingis to his doctour; and of townis bairnis ten schillingis in the quarter, thair of sex shillingis aucht penneis to him selff, and thrie schilling four penneis to his doctour. Item for tacking fra ewerie bairne ilk Sondag tua penneis, to be gevin to the puir, it being no point of charitie to caus bairnis giwe siluer to the puir, thay

¹ See No. 40, above.

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hawing no siluer to giwe of thair awin, bot that for quhilk thay mak sum wrang schift. Item, for causing ilk seige¹ in the wynter seaseone furneis tua candill quhair of ane is gevin to the maister by all reasone or gude forme. Item, for tacking aucht penneis monethlie of ewerie bairne for bent siluer.² Item, for tacking fra ewerie bairne at the begining of ilk buik tuelff penneis. Item, for causing bairnis pay siluer at Candilmes for thair Candilmes candill,³ aganis all forme and ordour, quhairas the auld forme⁴ was to tak onlie candill and navayes siluer. Be the quhilkis abuses and novations diweris of the gentillmenis bairnis to landwart ar drawin hame and takin furth of the gramer scholl, and vtheris are scarrit to cum thairvnto, quhairthrow the toun ar grytlie preiudgit be the want of bairnis buirdis, quhilk wes a gryt help to many of the toun, being now abstractit frome thame be occasioun forsaid, besyddis that the nyctbouris of the toun findis thameselffis grevit be the novationis exactit and laid on thair awn bairnis, as at gryter lenth wes contenit in the saidis greiffis; quhairvpone the saidis prouest, baillies, and counsall, haweing convenit befor thame the said Mr David Wedderburne, and hawing accusit him particlarlie vpoun ewerie seuerall greiff aboue writtin gevin in aganis him, findis be the said maister Daudis awin grant and confessioun, that he has transgressit the boundis of the forsaid act of admissioun, in takin a gryter salarie and scholedge, both of townis bairnis and landwart bairnis, nor is prescryvit and sett down to him to be taikin be the said act, and thairby hes gevin just caus of greiff in that point to the nichtbouris; as also findis sum abuse and corruption in the remanent articles⁵ aboue writtin, proceeding rather vpoun ane auld vse and custume introductit in the said schooll, befor the said Maister Daudis entrie thairwith, then anywayis inventit or devysit be him; for awoding of the quhilkis abuses and corruptioun

¹ Fr. *siège*, bench; here class, *vide* below.

² *Vide* note, p. 38. This is the earliest mention of this impost in the Grammar School.

³ For Candlemas dues, see p. 38 and Index.

⁴ *I.e.* in pre-Reformation times.

⁵ Probably these are the "casualties and accidents" alluded to in p. 11 n. and No. 15.

heirefter, efter guid advysement and deliberatioun, the mater being reasonit and debaittit at lenthe, it wes statute and ordanit be the prouest, baillies, and counsall, that the said Maister Daid sall ressaue no forder salarie nor scholege of his scholeris in tyme cuming, bot sic as is contenit in the act of his admissioun, viz. (*&c. as in Nos. 36, 40*), . . . and na forder salarie nor scholedge to be taikin of thame, vnder the paine of the deprivation of the said Maister Daid fra his office, in cace he contravene. Item, the counsall dischargis in all tyme cuming the vlkie contributioun of tua penneis, takin of ilk bairne to be gevin to the puir, seing bairnis hes no siluer to give of thair awin, bot that quhilk thay man seik of vtheris. Item, that in tyme cuming thair be not tua candill tane nichtlie of ilk class, as hes bein vsit heirtfoir, bot that ilk class find onlie ane candill in thê nicht, and he that happinis to be fabulatour,¹ to bring his candill with him, and na vther extraordinar candill to be tane, excepte onlie the fabulaturis candill. Item, that anis ilk moneth during thir four monethis following in the symmer season allanerlie, viz. May, Junij, July, and August, the bairnis that gang not to the bent² thame selffis, sall pay ilk ane of thame aucht penneis to the maister for bying of bent. Item, that no bairne be causit pay ony thing at the begining of ony buik, ather to the maister or doctour, bot be thir presentis discharges boith maister and doctour of taking any thing of thair scholeris at the begining and ending of ony buik, bot onlie thair ordinar quarter stipend aboue prescryvit, allanerlie. Item, at Candilmes the bairnis sall not be farder obleist bot to bring ilk ane of thame tua candillis induring thair awin plesour, not restraining alwayes the liberalitie of thair parantis, gif thay pleis to gif any ma; bot dischargis allanerlie all taking of syluer in tyme cuming fra ony of the bairnis for thair Candilmes candill, except

¹ Lat. *fabulator*, story-teller. This passage is quoted in the New Eng. Dict., but without adequate explanation of its use here. Obviously the office must have been held in rotation. I take it that one boy read in the dim light, the rest listening and learning.

² *Arundo arvensis*, &c. This passage shows clearly that "bent" or "bents" are rushes, used as litter on the floors; see Grant's *Burgh Schools*, 173, 475, 476, and "bent-silver" in the Index below. Those that "went not to be bent," would be the richer bairns, sons of landward gentry, &c.

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fra him quha sall be king,¹ to quhome it sall be lesum to gif quhat he pleissis, and tua of the counsall to be present in the schooll on Candilmes evin, to sie this ordour concerning the candill preceislie keipit, for eschewing emulatioun and contentioun amangis the bairnis: and thir articles to be writtin in gryt letteris on a brod, and to be affixit in the grammer schooll, that nather the maister nor the doctour nor ony of the scholeris pretend ignorance thair of; and for the better obseruing heirof, and for ordour taking with the doctrine and discipline in the said schooll in tyme cuming, the counsall nominattis and appointis David Mengzeis, prowest, Alexander Rutherford, Alexr. Cullen, lait prowestis, Mr Thomas Nicolsoun, commissar, and Mr Thomas Mengzeis, baillie, visitouris² of the gramer schooll of this burgh, to visit the same quarterlie, and to censure and tak tryell baith of doctrine and discipline, and to put ordour to quhatsumeuir abuses quhilkis sall be fund thairin, and the saidis wisitouris to tak the adwyse of the bischope, ministeris, and of the principall of the colledge of this burgh, tuiching the forme of doctrine and discipline."

Id. ii. 262-4.

43. *A House provided for the Sang School and for the two English Schools.*

[*Abstract.*] On the 1st May, 1605, "the auld and new counsallis" gave orders to David Anderson,³ master of kirkwark, to repair the house called the "kirk luge" at the N.W. end of the kirkyard, to be used, at the Council's pleasure, for the Sang School, and the "twa Inglis schoollis, teichit be the twa reidarais, or for ony vther vse the consall sall think expedient . . . yit the towne sall navayes be bund to find any schooll to any maister quhatsumever that teichis Inglische, induring the will and plesure of the counsall, seing the toune ar onlie obleist to find a grammer schooll and ane sang schooll." . . .

Id. ii. 267.

¹ The boy who gave most was so styled.

² The first institution of "Visitations," see ch. vi., the Laws of 1700, and cc. viii. and xii.

³ See p. 35 n.

44. *A School of Writing and Arithmetic established.*

7th October, 1607.

[*Abstract.*] Edward Diggens, an Englishman, craved leave to set up a school of writing and arithmetic in Aberdeen, for four hours at least in the day, "and to teache the poore for Godis sake, and the ritche for reasone, and nothing to be payit except they be profited . . . with sufficient and famous testimoniallis fra Glasgow, Dumfreis and dyvers vtheris pairtis," as to his character and work. Permission was granted to teach these subjects only, "and that the scolleris exceid the aige of ten yeiris."

Id. ii. 293.

45. *Disorderly and riotous Scholars.*

9th August, 1609.

"The said day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, vnderstanding that be reasoun of diverse complainttis, gewin in aganis the bairnis and scoleris of the gramer and sang schoollis of this burgh, for trubling and striking of the serwandis of diuerse nichtbouris within the samyn, vsing of gryt disordour and enormities thairin and about the burgh, for avoiding thair of, ordanit maister Dauid Wedderburne, maister of the gramer schooll, and Patrik Dauidsoun, maister of the sang schooll, and all vtheris succeeding to be maisteris of the said schoollis, that they ressaue nor admit na man sone, dwelling to landward, to thair saidis schoollis in tyme cuming, quhill the parent of the barne, or sum vther freind or burges of this burgh, cum in presens of ane of the baillies thereof, and find cautioun and sourtie actit in the tounis buikis, that the said barne and scoller sall nawais repyne to the ordour and discipline of the maister, nor yit trubile be way of deid man nor voman, maister or serwand within this burgh, or outwith the same, sa lang as they remaine scoleris in

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ony of the saidis tua schollis, under the palmer¹ of the saidis maisteris, vnder the pane of fourtie pundis, less or mair, according to the gravetie of the falt, and habilitie of the parent of the scholer offending."

Id. ii. 298.

45a. "Item, gave to James Mowat, for expenssis maid in obtening decret vpone the siluer left in legacie be umquhill Mr Jonstone to the colledge and grammer schoole of this burght, according to ane ordinance of counsall, 16 lib. 18s."

Dean of Guild's Accounts, Spald. Club. Miscell., v. 87.

46. "*The superstitious tyme of Yuill*" again.

3rd December, 1612.

"The quhilk day, Alexander Gordoune, sone to Maister Willeame Gordoune, commissar of Murray; Alexander Gordoun, sone to James Gordoune of Lesmoir; Johnne Innes, sone to Alexander Innes of Coltis;² Johne Johnestoune, sone to Robert Johnestoune at Kayesmylne; Hew Cummyng, sone to umquhill Alex^r Cummyng of Culter; and Willeame Fraser, sone to [] Fraser of [] wer accusit this day be Alexander Rutherford, prouest, for the great enormities, disordour, and abuse done be thame and thair associat scollaris within the grammer, sang schuill, and writing schuillis of this burghe, in tacking of the said sang schuil, vpoune the first day of this instant December, lang before the superstitious tyme of yuill,³ against the laudabill actis and statutis maid thairanent obefoir, nochtwithstanding that souirtie wes found be thame that thay sould not tack the saidis scuillis at that tyme, nor na vther tyme of the yeir, and that thay

¹ The instrument, strap, or tawse for inflicting "palmies" or "pandies"—*pande manum*, also the stroke itself, cf. *Eccles. Records of Aberd.*, Spald. Club, p. 27. On 29th Sept., 1603, the Presbytery of Aberdeen ordained that there should be such an instrument in every house, for the punishment of "suerars or bannars," *id.* 194. Compare the expression, *qui sub nostra ferula militant*, in the Laws of Vaus, ch. iii., below.

² Cults.

³ Evidently regarded as an exaggeration of the offence: the scholars had forestalled the usual precautions.

sould observe gude ordour and discipline within the saidis schuillis, lykwayis for wearing of gunes and schoitting tharwith, alsuell on the nicht as on the day, and for great deidis of oppressioun and ryottis, committit be thame sen the first day of December, aganis diueris nichtbouris of this burghe, in cumeing to thair houssis, and bracking vp thair durris and windowis, and maisterfullie away tacking of thair foullis, pultrie, breid, and vivaris, and als for tacking, at thair awin hand, of fewall and vivaris cumeing to this burghe and mercat thair of, oppressing thairby his haill Maiesties leiges, and committing of money vther deidis of oppressioun within this burghe, notourlie knawin and tryit; thay thus being accusit, confessit the said accusatioun to be of treuth, and thairanent patt thame in the will of the prouest, baillies, and counsall of this burghe, to vnderly sick punishment as sould be injoynit be thame, for committing of the saidis enormities and deidis of wrang, and Alexander Gordoune of Cluny become cautioun and souirtie to enter and present the said Alex^r Gordoune, son to the said Maister Willeame; the said Alexander Gordoune, sone to the said James Gordoune of Lesmoir; the said Johnne Innes, and the said Hew Cummyng; and James Fergusson, burges of the said burghe, become cautione to enter and present the said Willeame Frasyr; and Maister Thomas Melvill, minister at Dyce, become cautioun for the said Johnne Johnstoun, befor the saidis prowest and baillies, the fourt of this instant, befor ellevin houris, thair to vnderly sick punishment as salbe enjoynit to thame for thair saidis enormities, and thay actit thame to releive thair saidis cautioneris of the haill premisses."

Burgh Records, ii. 308.

47. *Twenty-one offenders expelled.*¹

4th December, 1612.

"The said day, the provest, baillies, new and auld counsallis, with the bishop and ministrie, being convent in the counsal-hous, and aduysing quhat punishment

¹ Except for occasional notices of a few individuals this is our first list of Grammar School boys.

salbe inflictit vpoune the schollaris of the gramer schooll, sang schooll, and writting schooll of this burght, quha notwithstanding that thay had found cautione befor, that nane of thame sould tack the schooll nor repyne to the discipline of thair maisteris in tyme comeing, ilkane vnder the paine of twentie pundis, yit not obstant thair of, thay vpone the first day of December instant, had tackin the sang scuill, keippit and haldin the same, with hagbuttis, pistollis, swordis and lang wapynnis, till yesterday at efter nowne, that the magistratis wer compellit, be resson of the great insolencies, ryottis, and oppressionis, committit be the saidis schollaris, to tack and apprehend thame perforce out of the said school, and committ ane number of them to waird within the tolbuith of this burghe, quhill ordour sould be put to thame for thair saidis insolencies; efter reassoning and mature deliberatioune, takin in the said mater, thay all in ane voyce fand, vottit, concludit, and ordanit, that the cautionaris of euerie ane of the saidis schollaris that hes takin the scuill salbe callit and convenit befor the prouest and baillies of this burghe, to heir and sie thameselffis decernit to haue incurrit the said pane and vnlaw of twentie pundis for ilk schollar, that hes contravenit the said act of cautionarie, and decreit recoverit aganis thame thairfoir, and the said pane to be preceislie vpliftit of ilkane of the cautionaris, and applyit to the commoun weill of this burghe, and repairing of skaithe and losse sustenit be this burght and nichtbouris thair of, be the tacking of the said scuill; and lykwayis, concludit and ordanit, that samony of the schollaris that has tackin the scuill, viz.: Alexander Gordoune, sone to M^r Willeame Gordoune of Tulligraig; Alexander Gordoune, sone to James Gordoune of Lesmoir; Johnne Innes, sone to Alexander Innes of Coltis; Hew Cummyng, brother to the Laird of Culter; John Johnstoun, son to Robert Johnstoun at Kayesmilne; Willeame Frasyr, sone to [] Frasyr off []; Thomas and George Gordounes, brether to the Laird of Cluny; Willeame Chalmer, sone to [] Chalmer of Balnacraig;¹ Willeame Settoun, sone to vmquhill

¹ The earliest record of Aberdeen Town Council gives a William Chalmers elected alderman [= provost] the day after Michaelmas, 1398: this was a second son of Robert de Camera or Chalmers of Balnacraig, an estate acquired by charter in 1356. See *Aberdeen Journal*, Oct. 6, 1898.

Mr Alexander Settoun; Johnne Forbes, son to the pryoir of Monymusk; Willeame Leslie, son to vmquhill George Leslie, burges of Abirdene; Johnne Irving, sone to vmquhill Gilbert Irving of Collairlie; James Ogilvy, son to Willeame Ogilvy of Baldeŵy; Alexander Cruickschank, sone to Patrik Cruickschank in Ardiffrie; Alex^r Norie, sone to vmquhill Willeame Norie of that Ilk; Alexander Forbes, sone to Alexander Forbes of Feingzeis; Johnne Meldrum, sone to [] Meldrum of []; James Cambell, sone to the commissar of Invernes; Alexander Irving, sone to Willeame Irving in the Hirne; Robert Farquharstone, sone to Johne Farquharstone of Inverchald; salbe presently excludit and put furth of all the scuillis of this burghe, and nevir ane of thame to be admittit and ressauit in ony schuill or colledge of this burghe in any tyme heirefter; and that caution be found be ilkane of the saidis rebellious scholleris, that this burghe, and the hail inhabitantis thairroff, salbe harmles and skaithles of thame, and ilkane of thame, and on nawayis to be trublit nor molestit in thair bodies or goodis, be any of the saidis scholleris, in any tyme comeing, vtherwayis nor be ordour of law, vnder the paine of fourtie pundis to be payit for ilkane of the saidis scholleris contraveinand the premisses; conforme to the quhilk ordinance, Alexander Gordoune of Cluny, renunceand his awin jurisdiction¹ in this case, become actit and obligit cautionar and souirtie for the two Alexander Gordons, Alexander Innes of Cults and Hew Cummyng, above, under the prescribed penalty of 40 pound; and Master Duncan Forbes of Balnagask became cautioner for John Johnston "vnder the pane of ane hundreth pundis"—evidently a prime offender; and on the same day Gordon of Cluny entered his four culprits, and Mr Thomas Melvell, minister at Dyce, entered John Johnston "that ordour micht be put to thame be the counsall, of their insolencie in tacking of the scuill, and thairon askit instrumentis."

On the same day the provost, &c., "reassoning anent

¹ Probably a reference to his heritable jurisdiction, as a Laird or Chief. The frequency of "Gallows-hills" in Scotland bears testimony to the powers of such local magnates, by which they might string up offenders "like rizzared haddockes."

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the ordour to be tackin be the maisteris of schuillis of this burghe for repressing and stenccheing in tyme comeing of the insolencies and disordouris that fallis out almaist yeirlie within this burghe be tackin of the schuill about the superstitious tyme of yuill, quhilk hes cheiflie proceidit be the slaknes of the maisteris in exerceising discipline on thair schollaris, continewis the dounesetting of the said ordour till the counsall be forder aduysit"; meantime, Gilbert Leslie, master of the "writting scuill" undertook for the future to be "comptabill" for his scholars, presently in the school, and himself to refund "sick indempnitie and skayth" they or future scholars of his school might inflict; and promised to receive none, unless they first found caution, under pain of losing his office.

Id. ii. 310-12.

48. *Gordon of Birsemore, with drawn sword, chases Gilbert Leslie, the Writing Master, upon the King's high street.*

5th December, 1612.

"The said day, Patrick Gordoune of Birsmoir, being accusit for trubling of this burght, and bracking of his Maiesties peace this day, in drawing of ane sword, and persewing thairwith Gilbert Leslie, maister of the writting schuill of this burghe, vpoun the kingis hie streitt, and giwing furthe dyveris and sindrie straikis at the said Gilbert, the said Patrick being personallie present, graunted the drawing of his sword to the said Gilbert, and persewing him thairwith," referred himself to the will of the provost, &c., was convicted, "put in amerciament of court" to forbear in time coming, and "to amend as law will," and was ordained to find caution for keeping his Majesty's peace. Alexander Gordon, younger, at Kethokismylne, a burgess, became cautioner, and Patrick engaged to relieve his cautioner.

Id. ii. 312.

49. *Gilbert Leslie in bodily fear of Patrick Gordon.*

On the same day, Gilbert Leslie "maid faith in judgement that he dreadis Patrik Gordoune of Birsmoir¹ bodelie harme" and craved law surety of him. The provost, &c., ordained Patrik to find law surety to Gilbert "for his indempnitie in his bodie and guidis in tyme cumeing, vnder the pane of fyue hundreth merkis," and Alexander Gordon, younger, "at Kethokysmylne," burgess, became "actit cautionar, souirtie, and law burrowis" for Patrick.

Id. ii. 313.

50. *The Masters censured for the Disorders, and ordained to be answerable for all damage done by their Scholars to the Edifice and Persons.*

23rd December, 1612.

The provost, baillies, council, bishop, and ministry convened in the council-house find that the recent disorder and enormities of the scholars of the three schools "hes proceidit and dois proceid of the negligence of the maisteris" . . . "being remiss in discipline, correcting, and chastising of sic insolent scholares, quhais office and dewtie is, quhen any disordourit scholaris within their schuillis attemptis any sic disordour, quhairoff their is no sic within na burghe in this realme,² to puneische the committaris and attemptaris of sic deidis most seveirle, quhilk statutes hes not beine obtemperit nor obeyit be the saidis maisteris," and accordingly in presence of Mr. David Wedderburn, master of the Grammar School, Patrick Davidson, of the Sang School, and Gilbert Leslie, of the Writing School, ordained that the said masters and

¹ "Item, the 5th of December, Patrik Gordone of Birsmoir convict for wounding of Gilbert Leslie, schoolemaister, modefiet to 66 lib. 13s. 4d." *Dean of Guild's Accounts*, 1612-13, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 88, also see *id.* 93.

² Similar disorders occurred in Edinburgh, where one of the baillies, attempting to force the school door at a "barring out," was shot by a young Sinclair, of Caithness, in Sept. 1595. These troubles were symptomatic of a violent revolutionary age. Whatever blame may have attached to the masters and scholars in question, the age itself and the unwisdom of the authorities in suppressing the holidays and old merry-makings were mainly to blame. See Grant's *Burgh Schools*, pp. 182 ff.

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their successors "in all tyme cummyng" were to be answerable for their scholars, and refund the scaith done to the edifice or persons wronged by their scholars, "ather be way of deid or tacking of thair guidis and geir."

Id. ii. 313.

51. *Gilbert Leslie beaten and wounded by a band of young Gordons, &c.*

8th February, 1613.

The said day, the new and old councils "vnderstanding that Johnne Gordoune, brother to Patrick Gordoune of Birsmoir, Francis Murray, brother to the laird of Cowbairdie, with sum vtheris thair complices, hes this day cum to this burgh of sett purpos and prouisioun, and maist prouddie in contempt of law and justice hes maist creuallie and vnmercifullie persewit Gilbert Leslie, reidar, and maister of the writing schoill of this burgh, of his lyiff, on the Kingis hie streitt of this burghe, at the kirk styill, and hes gewin him many bluidie and best straikis, with durkis and battounes, in dyueris pairtis of his bodie, to the great effusioun of his bloode, and danger of his lyiff, thairfor ordaines ane complaint to be maid in name of the towne, and of the said Gilbert, to his Maiesties secret counsall, and letteris to be raisit thairone, and the townis charges for chargeing the saidis Patrick Gordoune," &c., "befoir his Maiesties secret counsall to ansuer for the said oppressioun, and ordaines the same to be followit out and prosecute on the townis charges to the vttermost, till redres be had of the said oppressioun."

Id. ii. 314.

52. *Complaint to be made to the Privy Council.*

10th February, 1613.

Thomas Cullen, dean of guild, is ordained to "deburse ane angill nobill, to be send to Edinburgh to James Prymrois, clerk of privie consell, for raising letteris to charge Patrick Gordoun of Birsmoir, Johnne Gordoune, his

bruther, James and Frances Murrays, sons to the Laird of Cubardie, and Angous Grant, serviture to the Laird of Cluny, to compeir befor the lordis of privie counsall, to ansuer for the hurting and wounding of Gilbert Leslie . . . with the sowme of tuentie-four s. to be send to the said James Prymrois' serwand."¹

Id. ii. 315.

53. *The public Messenger to summon the offenders before the Privy Council.*

19th February, 1613.

. . . "The sowme of aucht pundis, vsuall money of this realme" to be disbursed "to Robert Merser, messinger,² to charge and summond Patrick Gordoun of Birsmoir" and the rest, above-named, "to compeir befor the lordis of secreit counsell vpon the [] day of Merche nixt to cum," to answer to the complaint of Gilbert Leslie and of the provost and baillies "for thair entress;" the messenger to use the summons "at sic places and in sic forme as he shalbe directit, with all convenient diligence."

Id. ii. 315.

54. *Two Baillies to go to Edinburgh on this and other Business. Gordon of Cluny intercedes. The Offenders to pay a Fine and do Penance in the Kirk.*

Two hundred pounds was provided to enable two of the baillies to attend to this and other business in Edinburgh (ii. 316); but on the 24th February, 1613, "ane honorable man, Alexander Gordoun of Cluny," again came to the rescue and "tackis the burdine" for Patrick Gordon of Birsmoir, John Gordon, "his brither germane," and

¹ "Item, to caus rais letteris (the 9th of Feb.) at the consellis command, send to James Primroiss, against Gordone of Birsmoir and his complices, for charging them to compeir befor the secret consell, for offence done to Gilbert Leslie, schol maister, 6 lib. 13s. 4d." *Dean of Guild's Accounts*, 1612-13, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 91.

² "Item, the 20th of Februar, gifin at the consellis command, to Robert Messer, messenger, to charge Patrik Gordone and his complices, 8 lib." *Id.* *ib.*

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James Murray,¹ to make amends for the wrong and indignity done to Gilbert Leslie and to the town, "vnder the pane of ane thowsand pundis." Patrick Gordon of Birsmoir made a similar undertaking "vnder the pane of ane thowsand merkis." On the same day the provost, &c., much mollified by this, ordained the three chief offenders to pay the sum of "twa hundreth merkis of vnlaw," half to go to the common affairs of the burgh, and half to Gilbert Leslie; and these three assailants were "to cum to the auld kirk of this burgh, on ane preiching day, and thair immediatlie efter the ending of the sermone, befor the blessing, to ryis out of thair seat in the Ruid loft, and compear befor the pulpitt, and thair in all humilitie, ilkane seuerallie efter vther, craue first God pardoun and forgiweness for thair said wrang . . . and nixt to turne thame selffis towardis the magistrattis dask, and in all humilitie confes thair offence done to the toune and to the said Gilbert, and craue the prowest, baillies, counsall, and hail toune pardoun thairfor; and last, to craue the said Gilbert Leslie, quhome thay hurt, pardoun and forgiwenes for the same, schak handis with him, and promeis newer to do the lyk in tyme cumming."

Id. ii. 318.

55. *Patrick Copland's Benefaction to the College is notified.*

On the 21st June, 1615, the Council were advised that Patrick Copland, a native of the city, through his friend, DAVID WEDDERBURN, was minded to found four bursaries for poor scholars at Marischal College (ii. 327). For the correspondence see *Records of Mar. Coll.*, i., and the *Accounts*, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 141.

56. *Wedderburn to conduct the High Class at the College.*

On the 26th July, 1615, Wedderburn, who had been appointed to conduct the high class at Marischal College

¹ "Item, the 16th of April, efter the satisfacione maid be Patrik Gordone, and Jhone Gordone, and James Murray, to the toune, and Gilbert Lealie, debursit to Mr Daid Rutherfurdia vyif, for vyne and spyice bestout on the Laird of Cluny that day, 18 lib.," *id.* 92. "Item, the 26th of Junii, debursit to the provest passing southe for raising of letteris against Wm. Gordone, cautioner for Patrik Gordone of Birsmoir, at the tounis instance, 4 lib." *Id.* *ib.*

till they graduated, in place of the late Principal Gilbert Gray, received from the Council "ane hundreth pundis" "for his gratitude [*gratuity*] and travellis."

Id. ii. 328.

57 *James Cargill's Mortification.*

3rd March, 1616.

Intimation is made by David Cargill¹ that his brother, the late Master James Cargill, doctor of medicine, had left legacies to the poor, hospital, grammar school, and poor scholars within the burgh.

"... Item to the maister of the grammer schoole of new Aberdene, to be mortefeit, fyve hundreth merkis, for the annuall quhairof he sall be obligit for the scollage and other schoole exactionies quhatsoever, baith in Englisch and Latin schooles, with grammer buikis, authoris, and Englisch bookes vused in the said schooles, and that for the vse of my puir freyndis: gif nane be in the schooles foirsaid, bot in the college, the annuall of the foirsaid fyue hundreth merkis² salbe to thair vses in the college, or gif thay be in nather, the annuell salbe employit vpon the edifice of the grammer schoole of new Abirdeene, gif the insolencie of the scholaris cannot be repressit from demolishing, let the annuell be gevin to the honest puir houshalderis of new Abirdeine." . . .

Id. ii. 331-2.

In *Mortifications to the Burgh of Aberdeen* it is stated that this mortification is now incorporated with Dr. Dun's; but see ch. iv., Mortifications to the School.

58. *Satisfaction for "ane cuff" to the "Doctor."*

4th June, 1617.

"The quhilk day, in presence of the prowest, baillies, and counsall, comperit personallie Alexander Forbes,

¹ Dean of Guild in 1616.

² £27, 15s. 6½d.

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sumtyme of Towie,¹ and voluntarlie submittit himselff to the determinatioun and censure of the prowest, baillies, and counsall of this burght, to vnderly and mak sic amendis and satisfacioun as thay sall injoyne for the wrang and indignitie done be him to the toune, and to Mr Willeame Wedderburne,² doctour of thair grammer schoole, vpoun the day off last bypast, in passing to the said grammer schoole, and their geving ane cuff to the said Maister Willeame Wedderburne, promiseing quhatsumeuer amendis and satisfacioun, the saidis prowest, baillies, and counsall sall decerne him to mak for the said wrang, that he sall willinglie obey and fulfill the same in all poyntis, quhairanent the saidis prowest, baillies, and counsall adwyseing, in respect of the said Alexander, his submissiue reference of himselff to be censured be thame for his said wrang, and that thairby he kyitchis³ to be sorie and grewit for the same, thairfor they ordane the said Alexander to go presentlie to the grammer schoole of this burght, quhair he did the wrang, and thair in all humilitie, on his kneeis, in presence of the magistrattis and maister of schoole and scholaris, sitt down on his kneeis, acknowledge and confes his offence, and craue the magistrattis and counsall pardone, as also, the said Maister Willeame Wedderburne, quhome he offendit, and promise nevir to do the lyk in tyme comeing; conforme to the quhilk ordinance, and for obedience and satisfacioun thairof, the said Alexander Forbes of Towie past instantlie with the magistrattis and counsall to the said grammer schoole, and thair maist submissiwelie, on his kneeis, confest his wrang fairsaid, done to the toune, and to the said Maister Willeame Wedderburne, doctour of thair grammer schoole, and first crawit the magistrattis and counsall, and nixt the said Mr Willeame pardoun

¹ The family associated with the tragedy of the House of Towie (Corgarff Castle) described in the ballad, *Edom [Adam] o' Gordon*, not many years before the above incident. "Item, to Alexr. Watstone, messenger, for ganging to Towie, and chairging Alexr. Forbes, sumtyme of Towie, befor the secreit counsall, for the wrang done be him to Mr. William Wedderburne, doctour of the grammer schole, 4 lib." *Dean of Guild's Accounts*, 1616-17, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 96.

² Brother of David Wedderburn. Mr. Wm. Wedderburn was minister at Bethelny, now Meldrum, about 1633, and at Invernochtye, in the Presbytery of Alford, 1651. Hew Scott, *Fasts*, iii. pt. ii., 563, 592; *Eccles. Records of Aberd.*, Spald. Miscell., iii. 214.

³ *I.e.* *kythes*, appears, is evidently.

thairfoir, promeising neur to do the lyke in time cumeing, but to remayne a freynd and weill willar baith to the toune, and to the said Mr Willeame in all tyme heireftir, and instantlie choppit handis with the magistrattis and the said Mr Willeame."¹

Id. ii. 353.

59. *Early "Passive Resisters."*

24th March, 1619.

"The quhilk day, it being menit to the prouest, baillies, and counsall be Maister David Wedderburn, maister of the grammer schooll, and be Patrick Daudsoun, maister of the musick schoole of this burght, that quhair a great many of thair scholaris sen the tyme of the dischargeing of thair thrie dayis play,² quhilk they wer wount to gett at the begynning of everie quarter,³ hes maid no payment at all of thair ordinarie stipend and scholage, quhilk they ar bund and obleist to pay to thair maisteris quarterlie, and vtheris delayis the payment of thair scholage for a long season eftir the quarter come in, to the hurt and preiudice of the maisteris; for remeid heirowff it is statute and ordanit" that payment in future was to be made within fifteen days after the beginning of the quarter, and such as failed were to pay the double of the said scholage, and "gif any scholar quhasoeuir, ather to burght or land, sall withstand this ordinance and repyne agains the same, he salbe expellit furthe of the schoole till he giwe satisfacioun to the maisteris, conforme to the mynd of this act in all poyntis."

Id. ii. 359.

60. *David Wedderburn applies for an increase of Salary.*

10th February, 1620.

"The quhilk day, anent the petition geuin in to the prowest, baillies, and counsall, be MAISTER DAVID

¹ The magistrates of those days had a fine sense of dignity and "Bon Accord."

² See No. 27, above.

³ See No. 27, above.

WEDDERBURNE, maister of the grammer schooll of this burgh, makand mentioun that quhairas thair wisdomes exactis a dewtie of him on the ane pairt, so it will not offend thame on the vther pairt that be particular in regrating his estate, the treuth quhairoff is, he hes not a stipend quhilk may encourage ane honest man to walk in sic a toillsum callin with chearfulness; the multitude of schooles everiequhar, the burdine of a familie unknowin to him of befoire,¹ the darch of the tyme, so cutteth away any litile thing that is gottin, that or the twa pairt of the quarter be expired, he seis evidently no correspondense betuixt his extraordinar paynis and the ordinar reward; thairfoir that it wald pleas thair wisdomes, with quhat affectioun they wald wishe the wark to stand and go fordwaird, to sie also with the same affectioun how be honest meanes the work may be so vnder proppet, that without difficulties and lettis ane honest man may bear out that heaveie panes quhilk must be vndertakin for the faithfull discharge of that calling; and for this effect, and in regard of his bypast servise, and for the good pruiiff of his trawellis quhilk hes beine presentlie gewin befor the visitouris of the schooles, they will sie that in sum mesure he may liue as vther scholaris in vther professionis, as at mair length was contenit in the said petition." . . . Accordingly the Council finds "the said Mr David his present prouisioun for his seruice and charge foirsaid, not to be correspondent to the weyght and burdine of his labouris," and ordain him in place of 10s. salary and scholage from every town's bairn to have 13s. 4d. quarterly, which with his stipend of 80 pounds paid yearly out of their common good they declare "to be in full satisfioun of all stipend, scholage, or any other benefit quhatsumeuir the said Mr David may craue of the toune, or of the tounis bairnis for his seruice as maister of thair grammer schoole in ony tyme comeing; and forder, becaus at the earnest desyre of the magistrattis and counsall, for propagatioun of learning, the said Mr David hes undirtackin, lykeas, be thir presentis (wpoun the conditioun vnderwritten,) he vndirtackis and bindis himself, sa lang as his health and habilitie will permitt, to teache

¹ Had he married again? See p. 31.

ane lessoun of humanitie¹ aincs everie weeke in tyme comeing, within the college of this burght, out of sic authoris, at sic hours, and after sic method as salbe injoynd to him be the counsall, and thairwith to compose in Latine, both in prose and verse, quhatsumeuir purpose or theme concerning the commoun effairis of the toune, ather at hame or afield,² as he salbe requyred be any of the magistrattis or clerk, in tyme comeing; thairfoir," they give and grant him "by and attour" his ordinary stipend, the sum of 80 merks yearly, Mr David not to withdraw from his said charge and function during his lifetime without the consent of the Council. Should he be unable to discharge the duty, through age or sickness, he is to find a sufficient substitute; he continuing master of the school, enjoying the whole stipend and privileges, and required at his own charge to satisfy his substitute; but in case of defect in discharge of his duty either as master, or in teaching the said lesson of humanity, the provost, &c., shall always have absolute power to censure him and to deprive him of the said benefit "inrespect he hes the same of the toune vpoun gude deserwing and during thair will and plesure allanerlie, and no vtherwayis, and vpon conditioun that he never burdine the toune nor counsall heirefter with any augmentatioun, ather of his scholage or his stipend." . . .

Id. ii. 366.

61. *Wedderburn lesson in Humanity at the College.*

16th February, 1620.

Friday, in the morning, immediately after the ending of morning prayer, is appointed for the above lesson in humanity in the college, and the Council "ordanis the ane weik rethorick to be teachit and the vther weik humanitie, out of sic select authoris as salbe inioynd," to begin on Friday, 25th February instant.

Id. ii. 369.

¹ *I.e.* Latin.

² In 1617, Wedderburn, at the Council's request, composed a Latin poem, entitled *Propemticon charitum Abredonensium*, complimentary to King James on his visit to Scotland, and for this he received 50 merks from the magistrates. Kennedy, *Annals*, ii. 126. "Item, to Mr. David Wedderburne, for some poesies made be him on the death of the King, at the desyre of the toune, and for printing thairoff, 33 lib. 63." *Dean of Guild's Accounts*, 1624-5, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 101.

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62. *Wedderburn to take a Boarder at £80 Scots, inclusive.*

25th April, 1622.

Mr DAVID WEDDERBURN to have 80 pounds Scots "for the interteainment of Nathaniel Welsche, sone to vmquhill Mr Johne Welsche, minister at Air, at his bedding and buirding, and for washing of his claithis" for four years, payable out of the interest on Mr Patrick Copland's 2000 merks, which "he yet intendis to send to the vse of the college."

Id. ii. 375; see Rec. Mar. Coll. i. 172.

63. *Monthly Visitors appointed.*

27th November, 1622.

Seven visitors of all the schools in the burgh are chosen and ordained "anes at least everie moneth to visite the haill schooles, and to report to the counsall quhair they find any disordour or brak of the injunctiounes, ather be the maisteris or scholeris."

Id. ii. 379.

64. *Alexander Wedderburn appointed to a Johnston Bursary.*

29th January, 1623.

Mr Alexander Wedderburn, brother of David Wedderburn and of William Wedderburn, the regent of the college, appointed to a bursary founded by the late John Johnstone, . . . "for the quhilk the said Mr Alex" will endeavor himself in all tyme comeing to kyith¹ himself thankfull to the town." . . . David Wedderburn, as Master of the Grammar School, was an *ex officio* elector to this bursary.

Id. ii. 380.

¹ See note 3, p. 51.

65. *The Grammar School to be rebuilt and repaired out of
Dr Cargill's Bequest.*

2nd April, 1623.

"The quhilk day, the prouest, baillies, and counsall considering that the edifice of the grammer schole of this burghe is become very ruynous and liklie to fall and decay, and is nather watterthicht nor wyndthicht to the great hinderance of the studentis within the same, quhilk being a commoun wark quhairwnto special regard sould be had, both for educatioune of the youth and studentis within the same, and for the credite of the towne, thairfor ordainis the said schole to be biggit, beittit, and repairit in substantialis and honest maner in all convenient diligence, and to be jeasted, lofted,¹ and sklaited sufficientlie and substantiallie as afferis, and nominatis and appointis George Andersone, maister of kirk wark of this burghe, to be maister of wark to the bigging and repairing of the said schole, whome they ordaine to agrie with the stane leaderis to cary and lead stanes thairunto, and to furneis all wther materiallis necessar for the wark, be advyise of Thomas Cargill,² and ordainis the tounis thesaurar to deburse sic soumes of money as salbe requisite for the wark, both for buying of materiallis and conducing³ of craftsmen thairwnto, out of the rediest of the money mortifiet be wmqhill Doctour Cargill⁴ for the vse of the said wark, and gif the money sall not be sufficient to do the wark, the rest to be furneist be the thesaurer out of the townes commoun gude, quihilk salbe allowit to him in his comptis."

Id. ii. 383.

66. *"Slaknes of maisteris" again.*

1st October, 1623.

. . . "in respect sindrie complaintis hes bene maid on the maisteris of scholes of this burghe for thair slaknes in

¹ Roofed.

² Cautioner to David Cargill, brother and executor of Dr. James Cargill, the testator.

³ Hiring.

⁴ See No. 57. The money was to be so used, only if there were not "puir freyndis" of his to have it in burasaries.

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discipline, in that the scholaris ar not keipit in gude ordour as they aucht to be, bot ar sufferit to debord and vaig without controlment, to the sclander of the towne, and to the great hurt and detriment of the youth, thairfoir ordainis the haille maisteris of scholes, to be warnit to compeir befoir the counsall this day aucht dayis, that tryall may be tackin how they keip the iniunctiounis set down to thame both in doctrine and discipline, and whair any defect salbe fund, that they be censured accordinglye."

Id. ii. 389.

67. *Wedderburn to cease teaching the Humanity class, as it interferes with his school duties.*

20th October, 1624.

"The quhilk day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, haweand considderatioune, that the humanitie lessoun that hes beine teached these few yeiris bygaine¹ in the college of this burghe, be Maister David Wedderburne, maister of the tounes grammer schole, hes beine verie hurtfull and preiudiciall to the said grammar schole, in that be occasioun thairof, the said Mr David hes beine distractit from that cair and sollicitude, quhilk he sould haue had over his scholares, both in doctrine and discipline, and many greiffis hath beine giwen in both to burghe and land for the disordour of the said schole, and neglect of dewtie in the maister both in doctrine and discipline; and withall, haveand consideratioune, that the said humantie lecture wes appoyntit to endure bot during the will and plesour of the counsall of this burghe allanerlie, and to be dischargeit againe be thame as they fund it expedient, thairfoir, and inregard of the preiudice sustaned be the said grammar schole throu the said humanitie lecture, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, discharges the said Mr David Wedderburne of all farder teacheing any humanitie within the said college in tyme comeing, and ordainis him to attend on the said grammar schole as his peculiar

¹ Since Feb. 1620, see No. 60.

charge ; lykeas, they discharge the thesaurar of this burgh present and to come, of all payment or answering the said Mr Daid of any stipend or dewtie for the said humanitie lecture in any tyme heireftir." . . .

Id. ii. 392.

68. *Robert Fergusone presents a Bell to the School.*

16th February, 1625.

[See text and illustration, "Mortifications," ch. iv. No. 4.]

69. *Visitors appointed.*¹

9th May, 1672.

The provost, &c. . . . nominate four of the Council "to assist and concur with Doctour Forbes, Doctour Dun, Doctour Johnstoun, eldar and younger, and Mr Robert Barroun, in the visitatioun of all the schooles in this burgh, alsweill the grammer schole, as the Musick and English scooles, and to tak notice of the forme of doctrine and discipline . . . and how the maisteres and scolleres observes the lawes and injunctiounes set down, and to be set down," to report defects and suggest remedies "conforme to ane act" of Jan. 10, 1627, "lykas . . . the laws of all the schooles shall be imprinted and publictlie affixt in everie scole, that nather maister nor scoller pretend ignorance thairoff."

70. *Gift by ane Nichtbour.*

16th May, 1627

The provost produces 500 merks, "reddie down tauld money," the gift by "ane nichtbour of this burgh (who obscuire his name)," *vide* ch. iv.

¹ The following are from *Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Aberdeen*, 2 vols., 1625-1747, ed. John Stuart, for the Scottish Burgh Records Society. In the present volume the extracts are considerably abbreviated, but nothing essential omitted, beyond some of what Erasmus justly terms the "uncouthness" of the law, and "the hateful verbosity of its exposition."

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71. *Andrew Howat appointed to teach Writing and Arithmetic.*

13th February, 1628.

Wedderburn sends in a "petition" to the Council that he had "agreit with Andro Howat . . . to instruct and learne his scollares to wreit, and to schaw thame some principles of arithmetik euerie day betuixt ten and tuelff in the foirnoone"; and produces a written "band," wherein Howat promises obedience to "the maister and his doctoures," "promiseing in the mein tyme, with Godis grace, to liue without scandal," and refers the reward "to the discretoun of the parentes." "Thir thinges I promes be the grace of God, vnder the pain of infamie," signed and witnessed, of date 6th February.

72. *Alexander Fraser chosin ane of the Doctouris.*

23rd July, 1628.

The provost, &c., "considering that grammer scooles are the seminaries both of kirk and policie, most necessar it is that thair be painful maisteres and instructeres planted in euerie scoole," and "with all considering that thair being onlie ane doctour" in the school "vnder Mr David Wedderburne . . . thay two are not habill be thame selffes allane to discharge such exact duetie in teaching and instructing the youth . . . as the exigence of that service requyres," and having the means provided by a "nichtbour's" gift [No. 70, above], elect Mr Alexander Fraser, "sone to vmquhill Adam Fraser of Finzeauch, as ane young men qualified for the chairge" at a salary of "ane hundreth pundis money" yearly, viz., "ane hundreth merkis . . . out of the accidentes of the deanrie of gild, and fiftie merkis be the tounis thesaurar as the annual rent of the saidis fyve hundreth merkes . . . with the speciall condition that the said Mr Alexander tak no kynd of scolladge from any of the bairnes . . . and "Mr Alexander being personallie present, acceptit the said charge, in and vpon him, with the condition foirsaid, and gave his aith *de fidei administratione*."

73. *The Maister dischairgit frome tacking of Bent Silver.*¹

8th April, 1629.

"The provest, &c. . . . dischairges the maister of the grammer schoole of this burgh in giveing his scholares leive to the bent, or in exacting any bent silver frome thame in tyme comeing, be resone of the inconvenientis that fallis out frequentlie be the occasioun foirsaid."

74. *Wedderburn's salary augmented.*

22nd September, 1629.

The provost, &c., "for dyuerse gude respectis and consideratiounes moveing thame, agries to give tuantie merkis quarterlie to Mr David Wedderburne, maister of the grammer schole, of augmentatioun to his stipend, of fourscoir pundis,² to be payit . . . during the councellis plesour and his good deserveing allanerlie, the first quarteris payment begynnand at hallowmes nixt."

75. *Visitouris appointit for the Schooles.*³

28th October, 1629.

. . . "Mr Thomas Colinsone, Mr Alex. Jaffray, Thomas Nicolsonsone, Andro Meldrum, baillies; Mr Robert Farquhar,⁴ deane of gild, and Willeame Forbes, are chosin visitouris . . . till Michaelmes nexttocum . . . "

76. *The Buriall of the Laird of Drum, benefactor.*⁵

13th April, 1630.

. . . "The prouest, &c., . . . understanding that Alexander Iruing of Drum, is to be buriat in Sanct Nicolas

¹ See pp. 37-8 and notes. Grant, *Burgh Schools*, p. 475, attributes the "inconvenientis" to injuries inflicted by the scholars on themselves or their neighbours with their reaping-hooks.

² Total, £153, 6s. 8d. (Scots).

³ "Item, debursit to Alexr. Rutherfordis wyiff, be warrand of the magistrattis, for ane denner to the bishop, doctors of divinitie, and theologie, ministeris, and dyverss of the counsall, at thair lait visitatiounis of the townes schullis, and for the wyne to Androw Maccullo, deane of gild of Tayne, whan he wes maid burges of this burght, 48 lib." *Treasurer's Accounts*, 1628-9, Spald. Club Miscell., v. 146.

⁴ See Index.

⁵ See ch. iv.

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kirk of this burghe the xxii. day of Apryll instant, to the quhilk buriall they ar earnestlie invitit be the present Laird of Drum, his sone : Thairfor, and in consideratioun of the long freyndship betuixt this toun and the hous of Drum, as lyikwayis that the said Alexander hes left in legacie ten thousand pundis to be mortifiet for maintenance of poor scholares to be brocht up in the grammer schole and college . . . " with other sums to the kirk and town's hospital . . . " findis it expedient that the toun sall honor the buriall of the said Laird of Drum efter the best forme they can . . . " the baillies to enrol the inhabitants "for caryeing of pickis and muskattis" to accompany the magistrates, and "the tounes great ordinance to be all shott in significatioun of the tounes love and respect caried to the defunct and hous of Drum."

77. Wedderburn chairgeit to compeir befor the Privie Counsall anent the New Grammer set out be Mr Alex. Hume.

14th July, 1630.

The provost, &c., "ordaines the soume of fourtie pundis to be given to Mr David Wedderburne . . . for making his chairges to Edinburgh" on the above business.¹

78. Mr Thomas Chalmer admittit Doctour of the Grammer Schoole in place of Fraser.

28th July, 1630.

. . . The provost, &c., "considering that Mr Alex. Fraser, ane of the doctouris . . . hes demittet the place in thair handis, be resone of his resolution to employ his studies elsquhair, and that Mr Thomas Chalmer, sone to vmquhill Mr Thomas Chalmer, burges of the said burghe, a tounes bairne, is a meit and qualefiet youth fitt for supplie of the said toun" appoint him at a salary of £100 (Scots) yearly, without scholage.

¹ These and later items of expenditure below duly appear in the *Dean of Guild's and Treasurer's Accounts*, Spald. Miscell., v. 104, 147, 148, 149.

79. *Wedderburn's New Grammar.*

1st December, 1630.

. . . The provost, &c., "haveand consideratioun that the new grammer laitlie reformed be Mr David Wedderburne . . . can nather be printit nor publishit for the vse of yong scholares, whome the same concernis," without the approbation of the Lords of Council: "thairfoir they have thocht meit and expedient" that he "address himself with the said wark to Edinburgh in all convenient diligence . . . and debursit to him ane hundreth pundis for his expenssis in the said erand."

80. *Further grant to Wedderburn.*

30th March, 1631.

The provost, &c., . . . "gives and grantis to Mr David Wedderburne, maister of thair grammer schole, the soume of ane hundreth merkis money to help to defray the greit chairges quhairin he hes bein drawin be his long attendance in Edinburgh, Sanctandrews, and Glasgow, in the purches¹ and obtaining of the councel and clergies of this kingdome, thair approbatioun and allowance to his new reformed grammer. . . ."

81. *Scholars not to attend any lyik or nichtwalk.*

4th May, 1631.

. . . "It is statute and ordainit be resone of the great insolencie of scholares at nicht-walkis, some attending thair parentis, and wtheris the maister of the musick scholl, in a greater number then may sufficientlie serve at sic occasiounes; that na scholar within this burghe salbe sufferit to repair to any lyik or nicht walk in tyme comeing, except onlie four scholares of the musik schole, whan the maister himselff is desyrit: and ordaines intimatioun heiroyf to be maid to Patrick Daudsone, maister of the

¹ It will be generally admitted that "the councel and clergies" were cheap at 100 merks (Scots = £5, 11s. 1½d. sterling).

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said musick schole, to the effect that he pretend no ignorance, with certificatioun gif he contraveine this present ordinance, to be dischargit frome any lyikwalk heireftir himselff." [Ordinance repeated 9th January, 1633.]

82. *Grant to Wedderburn for printing of his New Grammer.*

12th September, 1632.

The provost, &c., . . . "gives and grantis to Mr. David Wedderburne . . . the soume of tua hundreth merkis Scottis money, for printing of the new grammer laitlie set out be him be resone of his dedicatioun of the same to the magistrattis and counsall."

83. *Eduard Raban prints some of Wedderburn's Poiesies.*

19th June, 1633.

A grant of ane hundreth and allevin pundis money is made to him for printing *inter alia* "same [some] poiesies writtin be Mr Daudid Wedderburn and Mr George Robertstone wpoun the kingis maiesties comeing to this his ancient kingdome. . . ."

84. *Mr Thomas Chalmer to obey the Master.*

20th November, 1633.

The provost, &c., . . . "finds and declaires that Mr Thomas Chalmer,¹ secund doctour of the grammer schole of this burghe, is, and sould be lyable to the maisteris admonitioun as the wther doctour, and obey his directioun both in doctrine and discipline, and in all wther thingis concerning the weill and florisheing of that schole as salbe prescryeit unto him, and thairfor wes ordanit sua to conforme himselff in tyme comeing, which the said Mr Thomas personallie present promiseist to do and performe."

¹ Perhaps Chalmers, being appointed directly by the Council, thought himself independent of the Master.

85. *Licience to Alexander Rolland to teache ane Frensche Schoole.*

9th August, 1635.

... "for teacheing of the youth, sic as sall pleas to come wnto him, and for that effect to put wp ane brod or signe befor his schoole doore, to give notice of the said licience to all wha ar desyrus to learne the Frensche tongue."

86. *Againis the carying of blind Bowattis on the streittis.*

4th November, 1635.

... "The provest, &c., expresslie discharges and inhibites any blind bowattis¹ to be cariet throu the toune heir-after, ather be schollares or wtheris quhatsumeuir, wnder the payne of braking of the saidis bowattis and warding of the cariers thair of, and ordanis intimatioun heirof to be maid be the drwm, that nane pretend ignorance. . . ."

87. *Edict for a new Doctour to the Grammer Schoole.*

27th April, 1636.

The provost, &c. . . . "ordaines ane publict edict to be serveit on Sonday nixt at both the kirk doores² of this burghe, and at the colledge yett, inviteing all yong schollares wha are fitt to teache grammer, and ar desyrus to be admittit ane of the doctouris . . . in place of Mr Thomas Chalmer, last doctor thair of,³ to compeir within the sessioun of the same burghe, wpoun the tuantie nynt day of Junij nixt to come, at twa houres efter noone, to wndirly tryall of thair learning, gude lyff and conversatioun, to the effect the best and most qualifiet, efter tryall and examination, may be admittit to the said vacant rowme in place of the said Mr Thomas Chalmer."

¹ Buat (*Waverley*), bowet, or bowat (Fr. *bougette*, dimin. of *bougie*, a small wax candle?), is a lantern; a blind bowat, perhaps a dark lantern (?).

² Namely, St. Nicholas and Greyfriars Kirks.

³ The reason for Chalmers' resignation does not appear. As he was a Johnston divinity bursar, 1633-37 (*vide* App. i.), he may have needed all his time for his theological studies. From No. 84 above he appears to have had misunderstandings with Wedderburn, whose resignation in 1640 may have led him to resume teaching and abandon theology.

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88. *Maister James Boyd admittit ane of the Doctouris.*

29th June, 1636.

"The said day anent the edict serveit to this day for filling up of the place of Maister Thomas Chalmer, ane of the doctours of the grammer schooll of this burghe, now vacant in the tounes hands be his dimissioun, compeirit within the kirk sessioun hous Maister James Boyd, lawfull sone to Archibald Boyd, burges of the said burghe, and offert himself reddie and willing to wnderly tryall and examinatioun for the said plaice, wha being examined and tryit in his literature, gude lyff and conversatioun, wes fund meit and qualifeit for the place."

89. *Grant to Wedderburn for drawing up new Vocables.*

20th July, 1636.

The provost, &c. . . . "grant feftie pundis money to Maister Daud Wedderburne . . . for his paynes in drawing wp of new vocables for the weill and benefite of the young schollares within the said grammer schooll. . . .".

90. *Anent payment of the Doctoris.*

3rd January, 1638.

The provost, &c. . . . "ordaines the soume of ane hundreth pundis payed yeirlie be the toun to ane of the doctoris of thair grammer schoole, and the salarie and schollage payed be the schollares to the other doctor . . . to be equallie devydit betwixt the said twa doctouris in all tyme cominge, in respect of thair equall burdine and paines, and this divisioun to begin at the first change of any of the present doctours."

91. *Wedderburn's charge for Quarterings.*¹

24th July, 1639.

The provost, &c. . . . "dischairges Mr Daid Wedderburne of foure pund ten schillingis restand be him for his pairt of the calsey be quytting his haill quartering moneyes debtfull to him be the toune, quhairwith the said Mr Daid was content. . . ."

During these troubles the town underwent many exactions, and was obliged to borrow from the Mortifications, in order to raise the sums levied. Thus under date 11th September, 1639, occurs "ane nott" of these debts, *inter alia* :—

"Imprimis at Martimes 1638, borrowit be Andro Burnet, thesaurar, of Doctor Cargillis mortifeit moneyes j^m iij^c lib." [£1300] &c., all payable at "Martimes 1639, with ane yeires bygainne annuel rent thair of at that term."

92. *A bell to be rung for convening and dissolving of Schoolles.*

23rd October, 1639.

The provost, &c. . . . "considering that the schollares in all the schoolles within this burghe does not tymouslie keip the houres of thair convening and dissolving as is prescrywit vnto thame . . . hawe statute and ordanit that the bell of Gilbert Leslie's schooll salbe preceislie rung ilk day for both convening and dissolving of the whole schoolles at the severall houres following—viz., at sex houres in the morning, thaireftir a little befor sewin till the hour strick; at ten houres befor noone and twa houres efternoone, for convening of the haill schollares; and siclyik at nyne houres, tuelff houres, and sex houres at nicht, for dissolving of the haill schoolle[s], and that na maister direct thair bairnes hame at nyne, tueff, or sex at ewin till the said Gilbertis bell first ring."

¹ The reference is to the quartering of the Covenanting Army under Montrose, 30 Mar., 1639.

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93. *Dimissioun of Wedderburn.*

8th July, 1640.

"The quhilk day, in presens of the prowest, baillies, and Counsell of the burghe of Aberdeine, compeirit Mr Daid Wedderburne, maister of the grammer schoole of the said burghe, who, eftir due consideratioun of his weaknes and inhabilitie of bodie to discharge the said functione in such exact and painfull maner as the exigence of that place requires, he being now past the age of thriescoir yeires, and having continewit fourtie yeires¹ in the said service, with the applaus and acceptatioun of the Counsell and toun, thairfoir the said Mr Daid, voluntarlie of his awin consent, unsoacht or compellit, frielie dimittit, dischairged, renunced and *simpliciter* owergawe, and be thir presentis willinglie, hartelie, and frielie dimittis, dischairges and renunces, and *simpliciter* owergiwes his said office and function of the maister of the grammer schoole of this burghe, with his yeirlie stipend due and payable to him for the same; and all benefitt he may ask or craue be his said office in any tyme heirefter, in the hands of the prowest, baillies, and Councall of this burghe, as in the hands of his superiours, of whom he hauldis the said office, to the effect thay may dispose thairwpoun, and may chuis and admitt any other they think fitting to exercise the said function," &c. . . . "Quhilk dimissioun the saids prowest, &c. . . . accepted and receaved; and thairon Patrik Leslie, prowest for himselff, &c. . . . asked act and instrumentis. Lyikas the said Mr Daid, in token of this his dimissioun, hes subscriyvit the same with his hand.

M. DAVID WEDDERBURNE,
Sexagenarius et ultra."

94. *Chalmer admittit Maister.*

15th July, 1640.

The provost, &c., "elected, nominat and chused Mr Thomas Chalmer, sone lauchfull to umquhill Mr Thomas

¹ He was made Master in 1602. Had he been a "Doctour" before that?

Chalmer, advocat in Aberdeine, to be maister . . . in place of Mr David Wedderburne, last maister of the said schoole, who, in respect of his old age and debilitie of bodie, hes dimittit his place in the Councillis hands, to the effect thay might mak chuis of any thay thocht most fitting to fill the said vacant rowme. To the quhilk place the said Mr Thomas is admittit wpoun the conditiones condescendit on betwixt the Councill and him, specifeit and conteinit in the contract past betwixt thame thair-anent, of the date of thir presentes, whair of the tenor followes :—

“At Aberdeine, the fyfteine day of July, the yeire of God j^m sex hundreth and fourtie yeires,—It is appointed, contracted, and agriet betwixt Patrik Leslie,¹ prowest of the burghe of Aberdeine, Maister Thomas Gray, Mr Matthew Lumisdane, Mr Robert Farquhar,² and Mr Williame Moir,³ baillies of the said burghe, Alexander Jaffray,⁴ dean of gild, and Thomas Buck,⁵ thesaurar of the same burghe, for thame selffis and in name and behalff of the Cuncell and communitie of the said burghe, on the ane part, and Mr Thomas Chalmer, sone

¹ Patrick Leslie of Iden, Provost 1634, deposed in 1635 ; 1639-40 ; 1641, 1642-43. Knighted by Charles II. in 1651.

² Robert Farquhar, of Mounie, in Daviot, Provost 1644, 1650 ; knighted by Charles II. in 1651, a prominent figure in the Civil War, collector of the cess levied on the N. of Scotland, acquired great wealth. Mr. A. M. Munro's *Provosts*. In June 22, 1650, he was appointed “collector of the fynnes of the lait ingagers with James Grhame,” Balfour, *Annals*, lv. 56, a sufficiently odious office. June 28th, “Mr. Ro^t. Farquhar undertook that the l/ of assint should be presentlie satisfied in money or securitie of what is appointed to be given to him,” Acts Parl. Scot., *i.e.* the 20,000 lib. Scots, the price of the betrayal of Montrose by Neil Macleod, Laird of Assint. Money was scarce, and there was famine in the North, so Farquhar fobbed Neil off with 400 bolls of sour meal, a proverb to this day in the North, “which mail was delyvered to him be Sir Robert Farquhar of Mounzie,” *Book of Adjournalis, Trial of Assint for Treason*, see *Deeds of Montrose, Appendix*. Balfour, *Hist. Works*, iii. 427, tells a “merry jest” of how Farquhar, to square the authorities in Edinburgh, secured the powerful interest of Andrew Cant, by “treating” him and making him a present of a velvet cloak, accepted with no small alacrity.

³ Commissioner to the Committee of Estate, 1640, and deputed to deal with Andrew Cant, minister at Newbotle, to bring him to Aberdeen. T. C. Reg., 28th Oct. 1640.

⁴ Alexander Jaffray, of Kingswells, educated at the Grammar School and Mar. Coll., Provost 1649, 1651 ; had a narrow escape from Montrose's “Irishes” at the battle of Aberdeen, 13th Sept. 1644. His “Diary” is well known, a dreary, disappointing book to the historian, like Brodie's, Johnston of Warriston's, and others, full of the morbid introspection characteristic of the men and their times. Jaffray was Provost in 1650 and taken prisoner at Dunbar. In religion he “boxed the compass,” a stiff Covenanter, a “Fifth Monarchy man,” a favourite of Cromwell, a member of Barebones' Parliament, and finally, after 1660, Quaker, for which last he suffered much. Mr. Munro's *Provosts*.

⁵ M. Lumsden, baillie, and Thos. Buck, maister of kirkwork, killed in the battle of Aberdeen, Sept. 13, 1644.

lauchfull to," &c. . . . "on the other pairt, in substance and effect efter following," . . . Wedderburn having resigned, the provost, &c. . . . "having certaine knowledge and experience of the literature qualificatioun and gude conversatioun of the said Mr Thomas Chalmer, and of his habilitie and sufficiencie to dischairge and occupie the said plaice . . . he having served as doctor in the said grammer schoole dyveris and sindrie yeires heirtofoir," elected him "*ad vitam vel ad culpam* ; quihilk fault, gif an shalbe committit be him worthie of deprivation, shalbe tryed and judged be the prowest," &c. . . . "as onlie judges thairto," and Maister Thomas accepted "and faithfullie promittis, bindis, and obleissis him to teache and instruct his schollares in the airt of grammer, gude letteris, and maneris, and to exercise doctrine and discipline as apperteins, conforme to the lawes of the said schoole alreddie sett doune and to be sett doune at any tyme heirefter, be the prowest," &c. . . . "and to find sufficient and qualifiet doctoures, ane or ma, vnder him to teache and examine his schollares," and appoint as his stipend "the somme of two hundreth merkis vsuall Scottis money" payable at Witsunday and Martimes . . . "by and attour his sallarie and schollage, to be payed to him quarterlie be his schollares," the same as was paid to Mr Wedderburn¹ . . . "Quhilk stipend and salarie aboue writtin is heirby declaired to be in full contentatioun and satisfactioun of all farder stipend or salarie he may ask or crave at any tyme heirefter, except in so far as he may wpoune just grounds procure be his supplicatioun to the prowest," &c. . . .

94. *Pension to Wedderburne.*

15th July, 1640.

. . . "In regaird of his old aige and inhabilitie of bodie to serve in that functioun" and of his voluntary demission, "and with all hawand respect that he had served fourtie yeires in that statioun with commoun applaus . . . and lyikwayes be reasone he hes the burdine

¹ See No. 42, above.

of a wyff and childreine . . . the prowest, &c. . . gevis and grantis the said Mr Daid ane pensoun of twa hundrethe merkis money yeirlye during all the dayes of his lyfytyme . . . with this alwayes conditioun, that when the councell of this burghe for the tyme, sall find out ony vther meanes equivalent or more nor the pensoun abouewrittin, that the said Mr Daid salbe lyable to dimitt the foirsaid pensoun, and to accept of the secund provisioun and to undergo sic chairge thairfor" as the Council shall enjoin and he is able to discharge.

96. *The Bell of the Grammer Schoole lent to Kingis College.*

14th October, 1640.

"The quhilk day the Prowest, Ballies, and Counsall, at the desyre of Doctour Willeame Guild, now primar¹ of the Kingis College of Aberdeine, condescendis and agreis to len him the bell of the grammer schuill of this burghe, for the vse of the said college wpoun his ticquett, to be givin for redelywerie of the same back againe, betuixt and Lambes² nixt to come, to be thane putt up againe in its awin houssing, wpoun the said Doctour Guild his chairges."

97. *Yule Wacance dischairgit.*

16th December, 1640.

"The quhilk day, the magistratis and counsull, all in ane voice, dischargis the masteris of all the scollis within this burghe frome keiping of anie yule wacance, or giving thair scollaris any tyme to play, except wpoun the ordinar play dayis; and for reformeing the bygainne abuses, ordaines the saidis maisteris to attend thair charge, both in teaching and examining of thair scollaris as at wther ordinar tymis in the yeir, in respect of the act of parliament dis-

¹ Appointed Principal of King's College, 7th Oct., 1640.

² Lammas Day, August 1st.

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chargeing all such waccance; and in place of the said yule wacance, the counsall grantis to the scolleris thrie dayis play at the beginning of ewerie quarter, whilk was intimat to the maisteris personallie present."

98. *Moreson admittet ane of the Doctouris.*

16th June, 1641.

. . . "Anent the edict serveit to this day for filing up the place of Master James Boyd, ane of the doctoris of the grammer scoolle of this burghe, now waccand in the tounes handes be his dimissioun, compeirit within the Kirk sessioun hous, Master Robert Morisone, lauchfull sone to vnquhill Johne Moriesone, burges of the said burghe, and offerit himselff reddie and willing to underly tryall and examinatioun for the said plaice, whae, being examinat and tryit in his literature, guid lyf and conversatioun" was duly appointed at the same stipend as Mr James Boyd, viz., 200 merks, "togidder with the profit and annuelrent of the soume of fyve hundrethe merkis mortifeit for that wse be ane neighbour," &c.¹ . . .

99. *Thrie dayes Play at the beginnning of ilk Quarter.*

15th December, 1641,

As above, No. 97, "in recompence of the yule waccance whilk is now dischargit be actis of the generall assemble² and parliament, begining thair first thrie dayis play at Candlemes nixt, 1642."

100. *Mr David Swan admitted ane of the Doctors.*

14th December, 1642.

The provost, &c., . . . "vnderstanding of the literatur and qualification of Mr David Swan, and of his habilitie

¹ See No. 70, above.

² Note the introduction of this body and the leading place here given to its Act.

to dischairge the place of ane doctor in the grammer scoole, hes receavit and admitit him . . . ane of the doctors . . . *ad bene placitum consilii tantum*, with the casualities and pension belonging thairto." . . .

101. *Act contra yoole day.*

21st December, 1642.

. . . The provost, &c., "ordane the haill inhabitants of this town thair bairnes, repair and keip the scoole preceislie vpon Sunday nixt,¹ and the weik thereafter, vnder the pain of ten pundis; quhairof intimation ordanit to be maid be the drum passing throw the haill streits of the toun for that effect."

102. *Moreson to set Caution.*

21st December, 1642.

. . . "the counsell ordanes Mr Robert Moreson to set caution for his continuance with his charge in teaching the principalls of arithmetik, within the colledge² of this burgh, till Michaelmes nixt; and that he shall be ane ordinar hearer of all publict lessons, and shall not mak defection frome the religion presentlie profest."

103. *Ordour gevin for printing schoole lawes.*

15th March, 1643.

. . . "The provest, &c., . . . considering how heirtofoir, throw want of schoole laws, dew tyme [*tymes?*] of teaching ar neglectit, and authors ar not taucht to ye capacitie of the schoolers, quhilk might be weill amendit to the ease and contentment of the maisteris, and profit of the scoollaris, if good schoole lawes wer set doune; quhairanent the counsell advysing thinks it expedient that the schoole lawes drawn vp be sight and advyse of Thomas Mortimer,

¹ Christmas Day, 1642.

² This was something "by and attour" his school duties.

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baillie, D. Dune,¹ Mr Andrew Cant, Mr Johne Oswald, and Mr John Row, ministers of Aberdeine, Mr William Moir, Mr Daudid Wedderburne, be printed with all convenient diligence possible." . . .

104. *The biging of ane Loft in the Grammer Scoole.*

29th March, 1643.

The provost, &c., . . . "haueing resolvit abefoir to big and erect ane loft in the northmest end of the grammer scoole of this burghe, for the ease of the maisteris and doctors of the saide scoole, and benefit of the scoollars for wreiting thairin . . . appoints Walter Cochran, dean of gild of this burghe, to be maister of the wark in biging of the said loft, and to haue ane cair that the said work be enterit to with all convenient diligence, and ordanes the said dean of gild to provyde all materialls necessar, and craftimen requisit for the work, and to deburse such expenssis as sall be neidfull thairanent." . . .

105. *The yeirlie Pension of the Doctors.*

26th April, 1643.

. . . "Mr Daudid Swan, ane of the doctors of the grammer scoole of this burghe, haueing gevin vp his supplication to the counsell, quhairby he shew that his yeirlie pension of wald not intertaing him as ane honest man in his calling, and thairfoir desyrit the counsell either to tak such course anent the augmentatioun of his yeirlie pension as that thairby he may leive as ane honest young man in the toun, or to permit him to remove from the chairge at Witsinday nixt, to ane other pairt quhair he could get occasion of ane place; quhairanent the counsell adviseing and vnderstanding that the said Mr Daudid hes behavit himself deutifullie hitherto in his calling, and that his paines takin be him in teaching the scollars ar als great as the paines takin be the other doctor, Mr Alexander Chalmer,² and considering that thair paines and trauellis

¹ Probably Patrick Dun, M.D., the Principal, 1621-circa 1649.

² Probably an error for Thomas Chalmer, appointed 28th July, 1630, demitted office in 1655, *vide* No. 110.

sustenit be thame in edifieing of the scollars being alyke, thair pensions and stipends should be alyke also; quhairfoir the provest, &c., . . . ordanes the hail deues and sallaries payable be the bairns and scollars in the said scoole to the said Mr Alexander, and the said yeirlie pension payable to the said Mr David, to be equallie divydit betwixt them in all tyme comeing, and to be takin vp be thame quarterlie *per vices*, and the receauer or collectour thair of that sall happin to collect the same, be mutuall consent and advise to be comptable to the other, the first quarters payment beginning at ruid day¹ nixt."

106.

On the 4th September, 1644, 20 merks were allowed to Alexander Gray, reader, "because the said Alexander hes few scholleres in his schoole in these troublesome tymes."

107. *Anent Mr George Robertson his Mortification.*

18th December, 1644.

. . . "The counsall considering the great respect shown be Maister George Robertsoune, notar public, burges of Aberdeine, and his forderance of pious workis within this burghe, by mortifieing his fairland vnder and aboue, with the pertinentis lyand in the heid of the Bredget to the minister of the Grayfrier Kirk, and anethowsand markis to a bursar in the Grammer Schoole, [*with other bequests*] . . . and being willing to recompence Robert Robertsoun, cordener his cousing german and narrest air in some measure, quha is bot ane poore man,² and has ratified and approwin the said vmquhill Mr George, his testamen, legacies, and dispositioun, in all poyntis, and hes of new disponit the said fairland, vnder and aboue, with the pertinentis for the vse foirsaid."

¹ Elevatio S. Crucis, Sept. 14, or Inventio S. Crucis, May 3rd?

² The sentence is anacoleuthic: it does not appear what the poor man got.

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108. *Anent the Wreitts off Ferriehill.*

15th June, 1653.

"The said day, in presens of the counsell, Johne Jaffray, bailley, and Mr James Sandelands, clerk, ordanit be the counsell to receave the writts of Ferrehill, mortified be vmquhill Doctor Dune¹ for the grammar schooll, from Mr Robert Dune, doctir of phisick, maid thair report, that they had receavit the said writs according to ane inventar which the counsell ordanit to be put in the charter kist, and ane double of the inventar subscryvit be the said bailley his hand, delyuerit to the said Doctor Dune for his exoneration, and ordained Charles Robertsons, maister of mortificationes, to receive from the said Doctor Dune ane band of ane thovsant merkes restand by Rothemay as principall, and his cautioners, conforme to thair band, for the said wse, with fourtie pund² for ane yeirs annuelrent thairoff, and, and the said Charles to receive this yeers rent of the said lands of Ferriehill, the half therof payable at the terme of Witsonday last by past extending to and the said mortificatioun to be insert in the said Charles Robertsons his charge with the rest of the mortificationes."

109. *Demissioun of Mr Thomas Chalmer.*

20th June, 1655.

. . . "Compeirit in presens of the counsell, Mr Thomas Chalmer, and gave in and presentit ane subscryvit demissioun of his place as maister of the grammar scooll, which the counsell acceptit and ordanit ane edict to be servit with expeditioun for filling the said place, of the which demissioun the tenour followes: Wnto your honorable wisdomes, Maister Thomas Chalmer humblie represents that wher I have servit in your grammar scooll this fyftein yeirs bygane, and finding myself vnable to give contentment in all points to all thes whome I serve, haue efter

¹ Had he died recently? In the *Rec. Mar. Coll.* his death is given as "*circa* 1649."

² Interest at rate of 8½ per cent.

deliberatioun resoluit to satisfie your honours be my absence, whome I cannot satisfie be my presence; truely I haue laborit in my charge according to the measour of grace and strenth givin to me, but the result is weaknes and pouertie ar still increasing vpoun me, and vpone your honours part discontent and grudgings: It is a bad bargaine wher both parties ar displeasit, wherfor heartilie I resyne my charge in your honours handis from whom nixt vnto God I receavit it, not seiking anie other recompence of my labors but a frie demissioun: I sall not cease to be your honours servant in my hartie wishes and prayers for your honours welfair in all respects, and especiallie in this, that God wold mack yow fall vpon such a man as micht giue your honours greter contentment then I am able to doe: Wreten and subscryuit with my hand at Aberdene, the tuentie day of Jany.¹ 1655, and so subscryued, Mr Tho. Chalmer, with my hand."

110. *Mr Alexander Straquhan appointit Maister.*

12th September, 1655.

"Followes the contract betuixt the provest, baillies, and counsell, and Mr Alexander Strachane, master of the gramer scholl of this said burgh:—

"At Aberdein, the tueff day of September on thousand sex hundreth feitie fyve yeirs, it is appointit and agreit betuixt," &c. . . . the place of the grammar school being vacant and Mr Strachan's literature, &c., being satisfactory, the Council gave him a call which he accepted, and is appointed "master of the gramar scooll of the said burghe dureing his lyftime, to del *ad culpam*² with the haill stipends, fies, profitts, emolumentis, and benefitts of the samen, vsit and wount" as "Mr Thomas Chalmer or anie of his predicessours, maisteris of the said grammar scooll, did injoy and brook the samen in any tyme bygane, and in speciall but prejudice of the qualitie foirsaid, by and atour the ordinarie stipend peyit be scollers, for the said Mr Alexr. his beter provisioun the saids provest,

¹ June ?

² A mistake for (*ad vitam*) *vel ad culpam*.

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&c. . . . binds and obleissis them and thair successours to pay and delyuer to the said Mr Alexr. Strachane, during his service at the said scooll, all and hail the soume of thrie hundreth merks Scotts money at two termis in the yeir, be equal portiones, Mertimes and Witsonday thereafter . . . the said sowme . . . to be in full contentatioun of anie thing he can ask or craue for his said service from the toun of Aberdein, out of the commone good of the samen; and iff in the said Mr Alexr. his tyme the mortificatioun maid be Doctor Patrik Dune of the lands of Ferriehill sall fall to the master of the gramar schooll, and the said Mr Alexr. sall be put in possessioun of the samen, the towne of Aberdene frae then furth sall be frie of the said thrie hundredth merks" . . . with a proviso that if either party "sall pleas to discharge and quyt otheris before Lambes" 1556, "the saids parties to be frie of other," on 40 days' notice before Lammas. . . .

111. *Peyment of the Funeralls of a Bursar.*

6th December, 1655.

. . . "The counsell ordaines and appoints the master of mortificatiouns to wair, give out, and bestow for peyment of the funeralls of the deceast Henrie Dune, bursar in the gramar scooll, the halff yeirs rent for the Witsondeys terme of the deceast Mr George Robertsoun his burs in the gramar scooll, last possest be the said deceast Mr Henrie Dune."

112. *Mr. Patrik Strachane enterit Doctour.*

16th July, 1656.

. . . "The prouest, &c., being sufficientlie informed of the literature and qualificatioun of Mr Patrik Strachane, sone to the deceast Master Willeame Strachane, minister in Old Aberdeen, did receave and admitt the said Master Patrik to be doctor of the Gramar Schooll of this burgh."

113. *The Bent on the Links not to be cut.*

3rd November, 1658.

"Wheras it is fund by experience that the corne lands and other parts adjacent to the sea shor and upoun the coast, which ar much lyable to the overblowing of sand, are preservit from such harme by intertaneing and mantaneing of such ground as ar links and bentie hillocks, that the superfice and scurff theroff be not brokin" . . . and finding that "laitly ther hes bein cuttit and tane away of the neirer places adjacent to the sea and bentie hillocks ther of the lands belonging to this burght great quantities of bent for the wses of the houses and others . . . the counsell hes statute and ordanit that no persone or persons whatsomever, upon whatsomever culor or pretext, presume or tack upon hand to tack away or cut any bent or sinews callit sonaches [?]¹ of the saidis bentie hillocks or links, or parts adjacent to the lands neir the said shor without leave askit and givin, under the paine of ten pounds money, *toties quoties*, over and above any other punishment the magistrats sall inflict."

114. *Findlay admittit Master of ane English Scooll.*

17th November, 1658.

On the supplication of William Findlay, who had been "doctour in the scooll of John Broune," asking leave to teach "ane Inglis and wreiting scooll by himself," he received permission "to tack vp ane scooll in the Greine or Shorgait, for teaching the young ons and children." . . .

[THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY.]

115. *Mr Thomas Chalmer delyvers up the books left to the Schooll be Mr George Robertsoun.*

18th January, 1659.

"The counsell vnderstanding that ther wes certane books mortified and left be Mr George Robertsoun for

¹ A rare word, not found in the Dictionaries. Is it the same as *sonkis* in *Dougl. Virgil*, 208, 40, "on grene herbis and sonkis of soft gres"?

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the wse and behoue of the gramar scooll within this burgh, and that Mr Thomas Chalmer, sometyme master of the said scooll, did mell and intromet with the saids books, and at his removall did not delyuer the samen," the Council having written to him received the books following, "viz. Augustine of the Citie of God, with the comentis of Lind. Vives: *Item*, Scotorum Historia auctore Hectore Boetio: *Item*, Titi Livi Decas 1^a: *Item*, Titi Livi Decas 4^a et 5^a: *Item*, ane old torn Calapine, laiking begining and ending: *Item*, ane old manuscript, contaning som annotationnes on the Epistle Paull to the Romans: *Item*, Alberti Crovi Campiani Annotationes in scopu biblica novi et veteris testamenti: *Item*, Antonei Senei Emblemata et Epigramata: *Item*, Joannis Sluperii Epigramata in omnium fere gentium nostre etatis habita, torne and imperfect: Which books abouewretin the counsell ordanit to be delyuerit to the master of the gramar scooll, and that his recept be takin thervpon, and that dilligence be vsit for geting the remanent of the saids books."

116. *Laws anent Visitatiouns, etc.*

15th June, 1659.

"The said day, the counsell tacking to consideratioun that the quarterlie visitatioun of the grammar and musick schools within this burghe appointit by former acts of counsell, iff richtlie gone about, wold tend much for promoteing of learning and the good of the youth; and for that effect the counsell haueing orderit certane overtours for regulating of the samen to be dravin vp, which being accordinglie done, and this day the overtours vnderwritten, togidder with the *Leges Scolæ* appointit in the yeir 1636, being red in counsell and duellie ponderit and considerit, wer approven, and the overtours vnder wrettin to be insert in the counsell book:

"Followes the Overtours under wreten:—First, that there sall be foure solemne visitatiouns of the grammar scooll ewerie yeir, ane at the beginning of ewerie quarter, at which visitatiouns the scollars are to be tryit by macking

themes, interpretatiouns of authors, and analyzing the samene, macking verses, which will tack vp ane dayes work if richtlie done.

"That there sall be ane register appointit for the visitations aforsaid to be keepit by the master of the gramar school,¹ wherin sall be wretin the lawes of the schooll printit about the yeir 1636, and also the act of counsell allowing thir overtours, wherinto he who at the quarterlie visitatioun sall gaine the premium² sall insert his name with his own hand, and the point of tryall vpon which he ganit it, whither it wes by the macking of a theme, or of ane vers, or by annalyzing, with the dait of the visitatioun, which must be set doune by *nonus idus et calendus*, and the master to help thes of the inferior classes to do this the richt way, and his name and theme to be affixit aboue his class till the nixt visitatioun.

"Thridlie, to recommend to the master that ewerie scoller in the scooll have ane antagonist who may be also equal as can be for stiring vp emulatioun, and that ewerie on may vait vpon his antagonist, that he get nocht help by anie other in his tryalls at the visitatioun.

"Fourthlie, to give the master the themes of the present visitatioun, to keep till the nixt quarterlie visitatioun, that ther proficiencie may be observit.

"Fyftlie, that he who macks best vers have ane præmium, efter it appeirs to be his ovne macking by examinatioun therone, alsweel as he that macks the best theme.

"Sexthlie, to recommend to the master that at ewerie quarterly visitatioun ther may be some publict actione, (1) ather by some *colloquium* of Erasmus actit befor the visitors, which are but short and easily performit; or (2), some authors repeatit, as Cato Sulpitius, a Psalme of Buchanan, ane Epistle of Ovid, or ane Satur of Juvenall and Persius, or ane Ode of Horas; or (3), what will be most proper for the hich classes, and to the Lambes⁴

¹ What has become of this Register and of the Laws of 1636?

² The first mention of premiums or prizes in the school.

³ An odious regulation for the encouragement of "sneaking"; cf. *James Melville's Diary*, 1566, p. 17, "everie ane haiffing his matche and andagonist, bathe in our lessons and play."

⁴ August 1st.

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visitatioune, tuo short declamatiouns and a palemone, that by thes publict exercises the scollers may lerne boldness, and a vivacitie in speaking in publict. Some of these exercises wold be had at every quarterly visitatioun.

“Sevinthly, that when tuo or mor ar equal in macking of a theme, or in other point of tryall, that they may be put to some extemporanian tryall for the beter discerneing of the victor who aucht to have the præmium, and that the visitours be carefull not to discourge the other, but when the præmium is given to the victor, his competitor may get his ovne due accomodatioune in publict, from his mouth that gives the premium to the victor.

“Auchtly, that the visitors try how the scollers profit in the grounds of religioun, by asking some questions of the Shorter Catechisme, and if they doe understand the meaning.

“Nynthlie, that the visitors haue ane cair not to giue anie præmium in a partiall way to anie, as becaus they ar of kenned friends or allyance, seing that wer rather to discourge the mor deserueing, and incurage thes who wer more careles and neglegent, and to bring the visitatiouns in a ludicre and contempt, and frustrat the cheaff end of them; thairfor the visitors wold be carefull to goe about this deutie seriously and not slichtly, seing that the doeing theroff so will tend greatlie, thorow Gods blessing, to the good of the scooll and scollers, and doubtles be a meine to stir vp charitable herts to mortifie lands and moneys to pious wses for the increas of learneing and wertew, when they perceave that cair is takin to fulfill the will of others that hes mortified for such wsses before them.

“Tenthly, that at the entrie of ewerie visitatioune, the of counsell, which is to be in the first page of the Register, maid for approveing or recomending thir or others the lyke rules for visitatiounes be red, speciallie at the quarterlie visitations, for refreshing the memorie of the visitors.”

117. *Licence to Mr William Aidy¹ to teach Greek,*

4th September, 1661.

On his supplication leave is granted to Master William Aidy to teach "young scollers entering the colledg, or enterit befor, in the Greek tounge; at such convenient hours and occasions as sall not be prejudiciall to the instructioun and attendance in the gramar scooll and colledg, dureing the said Mr William his good service and the counsellis pleasour, and the counsell continues ther ansuer to that part of his supplicatioun anent his chamber maill to ther further consideration."

118. *Contract with Mr John Forbes, Professor of Humanitie, electit master of gramar scooll.*

10th June, 1663.

"The said day, the counsell tacking to consideratione that Mr John Forbes, professor of humanitie, wes electit master of gramar scooll of this burgh, and haid acceptit the said charge, and being desyrous and willing that the said Mr John suld haue ane competent provisione of maintenance, grants to the said Master John yeirlie the soume of two hundreth pundis Scotts money, beginand the first terms payment at Mertimes nixt to come, togidder with the hous and yard possest be Mr Alexander Straquhan, last master, or the soume of for mailling ane hous within this burgh to the said Mr John in his optione, and ordains ane contract to be extendit thervpon *ad vitam vel ad culpam*, with conditiones containit in the former contract past betuixt the toune and the said Mr Alexander Straquhan, beareing also speciall conditioun that each partie sall haue libertie to quyt others at Lambes 1666 yeirs."

¹ M.A., 1625, Regent 163-(?), in succession to Wedderburn, *Rec. Mar. Coll.* ii. 34, &c. From the reference to "chamber maill" it may be conjectured that the present Mr. William Aidy is a student, son of the above.

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119. *Anent the tryall of Mr Alex. Innes to be one of the four masters.*¹

10th January, 1666.

"The said day, supplicatione being given in to the counsell by Charles Dune, litster, burges of Aberdein, and wther the relations and freinds of the deceast Mr Patrick Dune, doctor of medicine, desyreing that Mr Alex. Innes sone to the laird of Tibbertie, might be admitted to ane vacant place of doctor of gramer school of this burgh, conferme to the said deceast doctor his mortificatione made theranent, and the counsell considering that by the said mortificatione, the tryall and qualificatione of the masters to be in the said schooll was committit to two of the ministers of this burgh to be nominat by the counsell, and to the principall and regents of the colledge, who being solemnlie sworne in presence of the counsell, should testifie the persone presentit ane or mae to be worthie, learnt and qualified for such ane place; the counsell did remitt the said Mr Alexr." accordingly; who after trial was duly certified as "qualified and able to exerce the office and charge of ane of the four masters of the said gramer scool, conferme to the said defunct his mortificatione." Accordingly, on

16th January, 1666,

warrant was given to the "maister of mortificationes to pay to Mr Alexr. Innes threescoir pundis money for his attendence on the gramer scool, from Martimes last to Witsonday next to come, and that out of the moneyes belonging to the mortificationes of the said deceist Mr Patrick Dune." . . .

120. *Mr John Forbes and Two Under-Masters to be paid according to Dr. Dun's Will.*

20th March, 1667.

"The said day, the counsell taking into consideratione that the deceist Mr Patrik Dune, doctor of

¹ Apparently the first mention of four in the school; see Dr. Dun's will, and the first use of term "masters" for "doctors."

medicine, did mortifie the lands and milne of Ferryhill, with certane moneys, for the vse of the grammerschooll of this burgh, suspending alwayes the improvement of the said mortificatione wntill the stock should be able to yeild yeirlie of rent tuelff hundered merks Scots money, quherof sex hundered merks to the principall master, and two hundered merks to ilk ane of three vnder masters to be in the said scooll, and that at Witsonday the said mortificatione did onlie begine to be improvin conforme to the then councell and mortifiers relations appoyntment theranent; and also that Mr John Forbes, professor of humanitie,¹ present principall master of the said scooll, was willing to continow in the said charge wpon the conditiones and for the yeires after mentionat, have admittit and receavit, lykeas be thir presents the councell, with consent of the mortifiers freinds, and relations, haveing sure knowledge of the said Mr Johne his abilities to exerce the said office, admitts and receaves him to be master of the gramer scooll of this burgh, and to the haill benefites and casualties due to him by the said mortificatione, which is sex hundered merks yeirlie, with the benefite of his awin classe, conforme to the appoyntment of the said mortificatione, and that for the space of fyve yeirs from the dait of thir presents, which is his entrie to the said place be vertue heiroyf; and farder, for his better incouragement and subsistence of leiving, adds, and eiks to the said sex hundereth merkis and benefite of the said classe, tuo hundereth pundis money forsaid, to be payit to him yeirlie during the said fyve yeirs" at the usual terms, "which addition is to be no preparative to any succeeding principall master in the said scooll to clame or crave the samen in respect the counsell grants the samen out of their owin good will onlie," all in full satisfaction "of what he can ask or crave by the said place for scooll exactions, such as candle, bentsiluer, or any vther due or steipand whatsoever," which terms Master John accepted, and contract was made accordingly.

¹ It would appear from this that he still held the office of humanist along with his mastership.

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On the same day,

the Council admits Mr John Findlator¹ and Mr Patrik Innes, "tuo of the under masters and doctors of the grammer scooll" . . . "for the space of ane yeir from the dait heirof, or longer, as the counsell sall find expedient," requiring from them a year's notice, and at a stipend of 200 merks Scots, together with their class fees, conform to the mortifier's appointment, which is to be "all they can ask or crave." . . .

121. *An illegal Warrant.*

23rd June, 1669.

"The said day, the counsell finds it reasonable and aggreable with the mortificatione of the deceist Doctor Dune to the Gramar Scooll of this burgh, that the premiums vsuallie given by the visitours of the said scooll to the scollaris for thar incouragement, be furnisht vpon the charges of the said mortificatione, and therefore ordaines the master of mortificatiounes to doe the same accordinglie, and what he deburses theranent, the same to be allowit in his accompts."

122. *Tryall of Competitors for the place of Principall Master.*

23rd February, 1670.

In terms of Dr. Dun's will the Council appointed "the principall and four regentis within the new colledge" and two ministers to make trial of competitors for the appointment to be made on Tuesday next, the first of March.

123. *A claimant set aside.*

1st March, 1670.

. . . "Anent the petitione given in to the counsell and the other patrons of the mortificatione of the deceist

¹ The extract recording his appointment, Nov. 16, 1664, is not given in Dr. Stuart's Records, but a note of it will be found on p. 139, and in Mr. P. J. Anderson's "Grammar School Masters," App. i. below. Other notices will be found on pp. 138-144.

Mr Patrick Dune . . . be Mr Johne Lyell,¹ sone to Lyell, ane of the subtennants of the lands of Ferriehill," as son of a tenant, entitled, in terms of the will, "to be preferrit without any contestatione," and claiming trial of his qualifications, but the Council "finds the said Mr Johne Lyell not to be the sone of ane of the tennents of the landes of Ferriehill, his father being onlie ane graseman and subtenant, and had no laboring but ane craft² of land, and was not ther tennent of the same but their taksman; and therfor declaires him not preferable, albeit qualified, without competitione, and in respect of his appeirance conforme to the edict, admitts him to tryall with others that sall compeir for that effect, and if qualified, *ceteris paribus*, to haue what is due by the said mortificatione. Thomas Merser, late dean of gild, ane of the counsell, protestit in the contrar, alleadging the said Master John to be ane tennents sone, and therfor preferable as aforesaid; the provest, for himselfe and in name of the counsell and patrons aforesaid, protestit in the contrar, for the reasons forsaid."

124. *Mr Robert Skeine admitted principall master.*

30th March, 1670.

The persons appointed to make trial appeared and report that the only candidate was "Master Robert Skeine, schoolmaster at Banchorie," who being declared duly qualified was admitted, "and withall, considering that by the forsaid mortificatione it wes ordanit and appoyntit that the intrant master, before his admision to the said charge, sould giue oath to promove the good of the Colledge Marischall in this brughe, and to advyse his scollars to come to the same, and to preferr the same to all other colledges," Mr Robert being called took the oath prescribed, and was appointed "*ad vitam vel ad culpam*, or at least for the space of aught yeires," with the usual conditions and restrictions "expressed in the mortificatione."

¹ M.A. 1663?

² *I.e.* craft.

125. *Act for redressing of certaine Abusses in the Gramer Scooll.*

22nd February, 1671.

"The said day, the councell taking to consideration certain overtures proposit by Mr Alexr. Skeine,¹ ane of the baillies of the said brughe, and others of ther number, appoyntit visitours of the scoollis of the same for this year, for redres of severall abuses laitlie arisen therein, and particularlie in the gramer scool, whereby the scollars therof sustainit great prejudice and stop of their learneing,

"first, in that the doctors did change from one class to another each quarter: therfor that it wold be expedient that euerie on of the saids doctors in the said scool sould begine with the scollars that he receaves at the four respective quarters of each yeir, and teach them their rudiments and gramer untill they ware fitt to ascend to the masters class; and seing in the three years tyme the scollars comeing at the Rude Day and Lambmes cannot be so far advanceit as thay that come at Hallowday and Candlemes, that ther doctor haveing delyverit wp the hallowdayes scollars to the masteris class, he may begine to receive the new scollars in the elementarie at the hallowday, as also perfect the rest of his former classis, and alwayas as he receaves euerie quarter a new class, so he may giue of the class of his former course everie quarter to the masters; and if any boy, thorow neglect or hardnes of ingyne, come short of his fellow, be advyce of the visitors, he ought to discend, or with consent of the parents, to be vnder the other master that teaches nixt to that class, and so euerie thrid yeir, each doctor of the said scool is to receive the scollars of ane haill year, and at the four generall quarters *per vices*, and this is to goe wp with his owine scollaris to the masteris class;

"as also the said scollers sustainit prejudice by the principall master and doctors ther appoynting ane of the said doctors hepdomatar in the said school weeklie, for exercising of discipline, wherby the same wes onlie done but vpon Saturday each week, in the foirnoone: therfor

¹ Was this Alex. Skeine, of Newtyle; M.A. 1637; baillie, 1650; author? *Rec. of Mar. Coll.*, ii. 210.

that it ware expedient that the principall master and doctors of the said scooll exercise discipline once everie tuentie four hours vpon the scollars vnder ther respective charges ;

“and further, that for the saids doctors better accomodatione and incouragement, that it ware expedient that each on of them sould have libertie everie thrid week to prosecute ther private studies in their chambers, provyding they did all punctuallie keepe their dyetts of teaching, examining, and discipline each day in the said scooll, so that the principall master and tuo of the doctors ar alwayes to atend in the said scooll ; and the forsaid indulgence is fitt to be grantit to them in respect that place is not possiblialwayes to be setlit vpon them ; and to the effect they may not be tempted to neglect their dutie weeklie, they ar to have the said three weeks indulgence ;

“and siclyke, ther was ane abuse in the said scooll, the principall masters nor doctors did not come to ther attendance therein whill sevin or aught hours in the morneing each day ; Therfor it ware expedient that on of the saids doctors sould each day be in the said scooll at sex hours in the morneing, and the scollars when they came to the scool sould not be idle, and that the principall master and remanent doctors sould all convey in the said scooll each day befor sevin hours in the morneing ;

“as also, that upon the ordinar play dayes, and at other tymes, when the schollars of the said scholl did get the play, it was informed that by ther not having the principall master, or at least one of the doctors constantlie with them, they did not onlie make disturbances and outbreakings among themselves, but also with the schollars of the gramer schooll of the old toune,¹ as was latlie fund : therefor that it ware expedient that the principall master, or at least on of the vnder masters or doctoris, or more of the same, sould be at such tymes constantlie attending the said schollars, and sould cause them keepe the ordi-

¹ The first mention of this school in these Extracts. These “outbreakings” lasted to within living memory, when the old town grammar school became defunct. Similar riots occurred between the students of the two colleges before their union. On 23rd Dec. 1668 the Council had to threaten action before the Privy Council for the violence done by King’s College students, for which they could get no redress from the Principal and Masters.

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narie places of playing, and vseing such recreations as sould not be prejudiciall to themselues or ther fellowes ;”

(all which the council approved and ordained) ;

“and leist the forsaid present change sould breid debait and animosities among the said doctors, allows them to continue with ther classes for this present quarter whill the rude day nixt as they ar at present, and thereafter to observe the forsaid rules prescryvit theranent.”

THE “INTERREGNUM”

126. *Dr Dun's mortification declared unable to maintain four masters.*

6th December, 1676.

“The said day, the counsell considering that Doctor Dunes mortificatione to the gramer schooll wes not able to pay the master and vnder masters ther sallaries therby appoynted, and that now the principall master¹ wes removed by death, when throw [*wherthrow?*] of necessitie some expedient way behoveit to be fallin wpon for making wp the mortification, and with all, considering that seing the principall master his place wes now vacand, finds that it will be ane good meine that his place vaik for some yeirs for the forsaid effect, and that no principall be admittit, nor programe issued out for that intent ; and to the effect the schooll may be regulat, and the scholars instructed as they ought to be, appoynts and ordanis that ane of the three present vnder masters to be chosine be the counsell have the principall charge of the schooll, and oversight of the vnder masters and schollars of the schooll, and teach the high clas before taucht by the principall master, as also the class falling to himselfe as ane vnder master, and that he haue the schollages² of both the said classes and the schooll casualities, such as bent siluer³ and Christmes candle &c., for his incuradgement ; and the other tuo vnder masters to teach their classes as before, and to have their former scollages and no further ;

¹ Robert Skene.

² Quarterly fees, paid by the pupils.

³ See Index for references.

and the counsell continues the electione of the saide persone to officiat as aforsaid out of the saids present vnder masters till the next counsell day, and in the meantyme the magistrats to speak with the haill vnder masters¹ anent the said affair; and for farther improvement of the said mortificatione, the counsell ordaines the moneyes belonging to the same to be wpliftit against Witsonday, and stockit and setleit of new altogethcr wpon land, or wther sufficient securitie."²

127. Anent the Vnder Masters. Also Play Days.

13th December, 1676.

"The said day, the magistrats haveing reportit to the counsell that they haveing convenit the thrie vnder masters of the gramer schooll of this burghe, and particularlie had spoke with Mr Johne Findlater anent his being pedagog to Doctor Frasers sone, wherthrow he could not atend both duties, and that he hade promised to doe all duetie incumbent wpon him to the said schooll, notwithstanding of any attendance he hade on the said doctor his sone, and if he should be fund insufficient he was content not onlie to be removed from the charge, but also to undergoe any censure should be imposit on him; anent all which the counsell haveing advyseit, they nominat and appoynt the said Mr John Findlater, during the counsell's pleasur, to have the charge of the class befor taucht be the principall master, and to teach the same, and to have the power and authoritie over the rest of the vndermasters, and over the schollars, and they ar to obey and acknowledge him theranent; and the rest of the schollars in the schooll, except the said high class, to be equallie devydit amongst the saids thrie vndermasters, and they to have no more sallary than they have at present; onlie, for ther better incuradgement, ordaines

¹ Viz. Patrick Strachan (?), John Findlater, and Robert Alexander.

² This "Interregnum" lasted for three years, and the Council thereby saved a Rector's salary of 600 merks, in all 1800 merks. This, at about 8 per cent., would amount to some £570 (Scots), yielding an income of about £70, or 105 merks annually. The rest of the sum required must have been raised on the new "stock" and "grassums" (?)

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and appoynts the said Master John Findlater to have the halfe of the casualities and schooll dues, and the other halfe to be devydit equallie betwixt the other tuo vnder-masters, and if the said Master John pleas to devyde the haill dues equallie amongst them all, it is to be in his owine optione; and for the better ordering of the schollars, ordaines them to haue ten dayes play at Christmes, and two or three dayes play at the end of each quarter, and recommends to Baillie Mollesone, Baillie Gordone, or the dean of gild, to intimat the premisses to the saids vnder masters the morrow, at ten hours, for their observance accordinglie."¹

128. *Laws for the Grammar Schooll.*

23rd October, 1700.

[For the copy of these see chapter vi.]

129. *Act anent some Regulations in the Grammar Schooll.*

23rd October, 1710.

"The said day the counsell ratified . . . the following regulations made be the visitors of the grammar schooll, wpon the fyfteinth day of June last bypast, for the better regulating of the said schooll, and the greater proficiency of the schollars therein, viz. :—that all intrants to the said schooll shall hereafter be taught Kirkwood's Grammar,² which is judged preferrable to that of Dispaute:³ *Item*, that the whole schollars of the said schooll (except the elimentarians) be reduced to four classes, after the first day of November nixt to come, and that all and every one in each of the said classes, learn

¹ See List of Masters, App. i., for Findlater's appointment as Master in 1679, and a number of other notices omitted by Dr. Stuart in *Records of the Burgh of Aberdeen*.

² Jac. Kirkwodus, *Ludimagister Primum Limnuchensis, deinde Kelsoensis. Grammatica facilis*, &c. Glasg. 1674 (the first part in metre), Edin. 1675. *Grammatica delineata secundum sententiam plurium*, Lond. 1677. See Grant's *Hist. of Burgh Schools of Scotland*, 370 ff., to which the reader is referred for further information respecting other early works mentioned in Laws of 1700, ch. vi.

³ John Despauteerius, a famous Flemish grammarian, 1460 to 1520. Grant, p. 49, note.

one and the same lesson,¹ and that the said elimentarians (being distinct from the forsaid four classes) be taught equally by the three *Hypodidascali per vices* weekly or monethly as they shall agree: *Item*, that when the said schooll is reduced to four classes, as said is, that thereafter the master of the said schooll shall teatch his lessons publictly therein: *Item*, that intimation be made publictly to the inhabitants of this burgh, that it will conduce much to the interest of youth that befor they be entered to the said schooll they be taught to read English perfectly, and to write weell, and somewhat of arithmetick and musick, and that non enter to the said grammar schooll befor they be nyn years of age, unless they be of a large capacity and engyne."

130. *Act anent same Regulations in the Grammar Schooll.*

6th February, 1711.

"The said day, the provost represented that conforme to an act of counsell, of the dait twenty nynth day of November last bypast, empowering him and some others of the counsell, with the ministers and masters of the Marischall Colledge of Aberdeen to goe and visit the Grammar Schooll of this burgh; accordingly upon the thirty day of the said moneth of November, they did goe and visit the same, and that the said visitors then conveened, did choose some of their own number as a committy for adjusting the method of teatching the Latine tongue in the said Grammar Schooll, and for making some regulations thereanent." After several meetings they approved the following regulations:—

"*Primo*, that all intrants to the said Grammar Schooll shall hereafter be taught Kirkwood's last edition of Dispaute.²

"*Secundo*, that the whole schollars of the said schooll (excepting the elementarians) be reduced to four classes from and after the eight day of February instant, conforme

¹ See next Extract, sub 6th Feb. 1711, *Secundo*, and note.

² *Grammatica Despauteriana, cum nova novi generis glossa, Ed. tertia, Edin.* 1711; v. sub 23rd Oct. 1710, *supra*.

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to a list of the schollars names in a paper apairt,¹ and that all and every one in each of the saids classes learne one and the same lesson,² and that the saids elementarians (being distinct from the saids four classes) be taught for this vice be Mr William Mestone,³ one of the doctors of the said schooll.

"*Tertio*, that each doctor of the said schooll shall hereafter bring up the class, *per vices*, untill they deliver them over to the cheif master.

"*Quarto*, that the first or lower class shall every year be formed, the first week of November (when the highest class goes off to colledge), out of these who have lately been entered to schooll, or only imployed formerly in reading Latine, or not duely qualified to begine the grammar, and that the doctor who falls to teatch that class shall carry them thorow the rudiements, vocables, and small authors adjoyned, with all the dispatch and diligence that the capacity of the young schollars cane allow, so that they may have carefully repeated the rudiements, and be fully instructed in the elements, that after ane exact examination at the generall visitatione the year following, they may be found duely qualified to be advanced to the grammar, and such of them as upon the testimoney of the doctor of the class and cheif master, and after tryall, are not judged to be sufficiently qualified, either for want of capacity, application, or attendance, are to begin the rudiements againe with the succeiding class.

"*Quinto*, in order to compose this class (on which all the rest doe in a measure depend), the counsell appoynts the citizens to be advertised to enter ther children to the said grammar schooll at Roodday and Lambas allanerly, duely pryed in reading English, so that the master of the lowest class (who having shortest lessons will have most tyme to attend the tyrones) may employ them in reading Latine, mandating vocables, or such other exercisses as shall be thought fitt to imploy them in untill the season of

¹ Does this still exist in the T. C. Archives?

² See under 23rd Oct. 1710. As the lessons, in the modern sense, are immediately after this prescribed and vary for each class, the word "lesson" here must be taken in the sense of *lectio*, *v.* Laws of 1553, ch. iii., *i.e.*, period of time. The "Elementarians" had shorter periods, see sub *Quinto*.

³ See Mr. P. J. Anderson's Notes on Masters, App. i.

forming them into a class, and that all who have not entered seasonably and are not fitted for begining to learne the Latine tongue, or to be reduced into a class, shall be continued reading, and employed as above exprest untill the nixt years class be formed; and every schollar comeing from the countrey shall be carefully examined by the master and all the doctors joyntly, and entered into such a class as they shall judge him best qualified for.

“*Sexto*, the forsaid class, now the second, shall in the begining of November following ascend and be entered into the grammar, so that they may in the compass of the second year be taught all the etymologie or first pairt, and some of the second, which together with such authors as are prescryved be the regulations anno 1700,¹ or as may be appointed by any other visitation, may very well be taught and repeated over againe within the space of a year.

“*Septimo*, the said class, now the third, shall in the begining of the third November be carryed foreward in the grammar, so that in a year more they may learn the remander of the syntox, prosody, or third pairt, and the few pages relating to orthographie, and so compleit the whole grammar which may be thus conveniently taught and repeated within two years tyme; and the authors to be taught this third class may be such as were formerly, or may be afterwards appoynted, conform to the progress in grammar.

“*Octavo*, the rudiements and grammar being carefully taught, repeated over, and inculcat within the space of three years as is above proposed, with the proper authors suted to the capacityes and advances of the scholars, so that constant practise may accompany the precepts, the class is, in the begining of November in the fourth year, to be delivered off to the cheif maister of the schooll, and to fall under his particular manadgement, whose work shall be to imploy the highest or fourth class in expounding and resolving authors, calculat for ther proficiency in themms, versions, poetically composurs, and orations, accompanied

¹ See ch. vi.

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with a constant repetition of the rules and most abstruse or necessary portions of the grammar.

"*Nono*, after the first day of May every year, the said cheif master shall teatch his class some very plain and short treatise of rhetorick by slow advances, along with other exercises.

"*Decimo*, that the said cheif master shall every year teatch a compleit sett of new authors, and that ther be but only one prose, and one other verse author together besyd the sacred lesson, and some dyets for reading or practising colouques.

"*Undecimo*, that ther be four quarterly visitations in the said school punctually observed, and that such boys as are then found not to be capable to keep pace with the rest of the class fall into the nixt lower class, which will much contribut to ther advantage as well as to the good order of the schooll.

"*Duodecimo*, that the dyetts for teaching the grammar and authors in the said schooll be the same that were formerly.

"*Decimo tertio*, that the cheif master provyde two catalogues at every visitation of the names of the schollars¹ in the severall classes, and of the places of grammar and authors they are learning, and what they have learned since the last visitation, one whereof to be kept be the toun clerk, and to be brought along with the *leges schole*, and the other to be lodged in the schoolls among the books, and the saids provest, baillies, and councill appoynted, and hereby appoynts, the hails above regulations to be observed and kept in tyme coming by all concerned ;

"and for the further encouragement of learning they appoynt some public actiones to be acted in the Grammar Schooll, each year the day following the generall visitation of the said school in October. As also in order to a further progress of the youth, and for giving them vivacity in the Latine tongue, with some boldness and confidence they appoynted . . . a publick theater to be erected in some publick place of the toun, as the counsell

¹ What has become of these ?

shall think fit, upon the touns expensses once every three year, and ther some publict action to be acted by the schollars of the said schooll."¹

THE SCHOOL IN THE '45

131. *Extracts from the Diary of the Rev. John Bisset*
(one of the Ministers of Aberdeen).

1st November, 1745.

"Although the masters of the Grammar School drop King George name out of their prayers, it rather inflamed many of the young people, who, when Mr Howison² was praying this week, upon his ommitting the Kings name, cried out King George; and one of the boyes, after prayer was ended, cried out, None pray for King George, God bless him; but when it comes to the turn of one of the doctors to be hebdomader,³ if he resumes not King Georges name, I shall offer him no more advice." . . .

November 5th.

"Mr Charles Dun,⁴ being at present hebdomader, prays stoutly for King George by name, and against his enemies. I hear Pitna []⁵ doth so, very much, and I am told that Mr James Dun⁶ hath prayed this morning *nominatim*, it is like after the example of another." . . .

¹ Dr. Stuart's Extracts are continued to 28th Oct. 1747, but without further reference to school affairs. The New Spalding Club would do good service to history by continuing the Extracts from 1747. Something of the school life may be traced in the extracts made by Mr. Anderson, see App. i., and more might be gathered from the Visitation Books, the first volume of which commences with the year 1700. Extracts from vol. ii. are embodied in ch. viii. of the present work, from which it will appear that the Laws of 1700-1711 remained substantially in force till the middle of the nineteenth century.

² Appointed in 1718, see App. i.

³ Master on weekly duty, see Laws of 1700, ch. vi.

⁴ Appointed in 1736, see App. i.

⁵ So in the Spald. Miscell. Probably the name of the other "Doctor" or Under-Master is here intended, viz. Mr. John Smith, appointed Jan. 1745.

⁶ The Master or Rector, see his portrait.

November 28th.

“The masters of the Grammar School now continue praying *nominatim* for King George, excepting the old Doctor,¹ who was lately, in his own conceited opinion, on the road to heaven, with such full assurance. I hear he hath been bullying some of the rest, as a man not to be put out of his measures. Whatever be the issue of matters presently in dependence, I shall not expect to see good dayes, unless the churches and schools be purged of such miscreants.”

Spalding Club Miscell., i. pp. 353, 354, 357.

¹ Andrew Howieson.

CHAPTER III

Statuta et Reges Ludi Literarii Grammaticorum Aberdonensium.

MDLIII.

INPRIMIS puer ingressus Scholas prosternat se humi genibus flexis, salutet *Christum optimum* maximum humani generis *Authorem* et *Virginem Deiparam* brevi precatiuncula : hoc modo.

Gratias tibi *Pater Cælestis* ago, quod praeteritam noctem mihi volueris esse prosperam : precorque ut diem itidem hunc mihi fortunes, ad tuam gloriam et animae meae salutem : et *Tu* qui es *Vera Lux*, occasum nesciens, *Sol aeternus*, omnia vivificans, alens, exhilarans, digneris illucescere menti meae, ne usquam in ullum impingam peccatum : sed ductu tuo perveniam ad vitam aeternam. Amen.

Iesu esto mihi Iesus, et spiritu principali confirma me.

Septima lucis hora, incipiat Pars, qua absoluta ingrediatur Praeceptor, castiget aut verbis aut verberibus delinquentes : castigatione facta, fiat omnium lectionum praelectio publica, per Praeceptorem ipsum, hora lucis octava. Praelectione absoluta ientatum festinent pueri. Privata hypodidascalorum praelectio, in singulis suis classibus sit hora lucis decima : undecima vero aut sesquiundecima, sit copia egenis condiscipulis eundi in urbem, itidem oppidanis paulopost, si qui sint.

Secunda archididascali praelectio Terentii, Virgilii, aut Ciceronis sit sesquiundecima, iis qui adesse debent. Denique ubi sonuerit hora meridiana pueris prandendi fiat potestas.

STATUTA POMERIDIANA.

Ante horam pomeridianam secundam, sint singuli praesto in ludo literario, ad audiendas classium praelectiones.

Semper vero hypodidascalorum per vices praesto sit in gymnasio, qui notet errores, Latini sermonis ineptias, et minus iusto studiis incumbentes. Viderint etiam ipsi ne quod alios facientes ex officio repraehendere debent, ipsi committant.

Lucis vero pomeridiana quarta, post campanae sonum recenseant pueri suis instructoribus pensum illius diei.

Exeant binae ad naturae officia cum signo aut baculo : licitum non erit cuiquam exire, nisi coacto, ante reditum eorū quibus eundi copia facta fuerit.

Gymnasiarcha ipse, unam aut alteram audiet classem praeter suam supremam, cum sibi sedeat animo.

Disputationes vesperi a quinta ad sextam noctis horam fiant ; qua cognita *Deo Opt. Max.* preces canere festinent.

Pythagoricum unius anni silentium elementariis ac neophytis sit iniunctum.

Confessionis tabulam ediscant.

Numerandi artem modice praelibent.

Loquantur omnes Latine, Grece, Hebraice, Gallice, Hybernice, nunquam vernacule, saltem cum his qui Latine noscunt.

Singuli singulas gestent ferulas.

Familia extraneis sit interdicta.

Nullus de grege Grammaticorum cum Dialectico agat.

LEGES.

Non licebit commutare, nec rem alienam emere, nec propriam alienare, inconsulto archididascalo, aut eius suffraganeo.

Ne ludus [*sic*] sponsione libri, aut pecuniae, seu vestium, aut prandii : sed pro deposito, certent saltem provectiores coriaceis ligaturis vel aciculis.

Ne ludus aleae sit, vetamus : aleae lucro gaudebunt pauperes.

A conspectu hypodidascalorum ludere non licebit.

LEGES ANIMADVERSIONIS.

Nullus alteri faciet iniuriam verbo nec opere, quam si laesus ferat modeste conquerendo, offendens puniatur. At si contendendo sese mutuis iurgiis, altercationeque commoverint, uterque poenas luat. Atqui pro verbis dat verbera, solus verberator det poenas. Si qui autem aetate provectiores, peccando in praemissis, delinquendi occasionem iunioribus dederint, duplici poena mulctentur, quia peccant et aliis peccandi ansam dant, quibus alioqui animus non fuit.

HI CASTIGANDI VENIUNT.

Non audientes dicto. Sero matutina luce gymnasium ingredientibus. Nescientes dicere Partes cum lectionis textu. Moventes citra necessitatem de loco in locum. Discurrentes. Colloquium tempore praelectionum tenentes. Sero redeuntes a ientaculo et prandio. Moram trahentes in naturae officio. Vernacule loquentes. Absentes diu ab auditorio. Authores mali.

Quum neminem leges ignoscere oporteat, haec nostrae scholae statuta excudenda curavimus, quo illorum certior sit cognitio et paratior probatio ; et ut qui sub nostra ferula militant, eo officiosiores nomophylaces esse velint, quo sunt hae nomothetae iam typis excusae per nos singulis factae notiores, quam ut earum ignorantiam possint praetextere.

[Then follow extracts : "Officium Discipulorum ex Quintiliano" : "Off. Adolescentis ex Cicerone" : Off. Adol. ex. Terentio." . . .

HOC · FAC · ET · VIVES.

(*King's Coll. Library, D^s 97.*)

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL (?) IN 1553

STATUTA ET LEGES LUDI LITERARII GRAMMATICORUM
ABERDONENSIIUM.

The Library of King's College contains a Latin Grammar, printed at Paris in 1553, the author of which was John Vaus or Waus, first "Humanist" or Professor of Latin in King's College, which, after ten years of incubation, had got started in 1505. Little is known of the writer. The exact date of his appointment to King's College has not been ascertained. We may hazard the guess that he was perhaps a descendant of "John the Waus" (*i.e.* John of the Walls, de Vallis [?]),¹ Alderman (Provost) of the city in 1444-45—one of whose sons also bore the name John; and another, Richard, bestowed on the Grey Friars their place in Broad Street, the last vestige of which is on the eve of disappearing.² The Town Council registers record that in 1520 "Sir John Waus, Chaplain of the Altar of Jesus" [in St. Nicholas Church], became possessed of a tenement belonging to "John Arthour." The title "Sir" and his office mark him as a priest. Probably he had studied in Paris, after obtaining the rudiments of his education at the Grammar School, if, as seems probable, Aberdeen was his native city. The School had then existed for nearly three centuries, if not longer—was as old then as Marischal College now is.

The chief interest of his Grammar for us, and in the history of education generally, lies in the quaint Latin rules drawn up by Vaus for the management of the Grammar School, and printed therein, "that those who serve under our cane" (*qui sub nostra ferula militant*—a finely expressive phrase) "may the more diligently keep the law, and may not plead ignorance of the statutes." It has been conjectured, though, so far as we know, never seriously maintained, that these rules referred not to the

¹ The name appears in medieval Latin documents as *De Vallibus*, *De Vaulx*, "*the Vaus*," or *Waus*, and occurs not infrequently in Aberdeen records of the 15th and 16th centuries.

² Written in May, 1901.

Grammar School but to the University. There are, no doubt, obscurities and difficulties in the text, which it would be beyond our present scope to discuss, and which, for lack of other direct information as to the School at that date, may leave it matter for debate whether these rules were intended for our School. Let us admit that the connection of Vaus with it is merely matter of conjecture, while his position in the new University is an accepted fact of history. We know, too, that undergraduates then and till within living memory were more juvenile than the "Varsity men" of our own days; sometimes accordingly treated, as befitted their more tender years, to the salutary discipline of the rod. It is a tradition of Cambridge, though without historical basis, that Milton himself was flogged there, as were boys of old in our own School, by "portering," on the shoulders of a servitor.¹

But the general tenour of the rules, the repeated use of the terms "*schola*," "*pueri*," and "*Grammatici*," the study of "Parts" (*i.e.* Latin Accidence), the mention of a Class of "*Elementarii*," for long afterwards a term used in our School for a class of beginners, the absence of specific terms appropriate and peculiar to the University, the mention of a Headmaster (*praeceptor*, *archididasculus*, *gymnasiarcha*), and more particularly of *hypodidascoli*, whether ushers or monitors, the regulation that one of these should always supervise the pupils at play, and the terrible "sanctions" of the law in the last dread paragraph—*HI CASTIGANDI VENIUNT*—a thing evidently of daily recurrence—all point to the School rather than the College.

It is reasonable, therefore, to guess that Vaus, as a man of learning and position, was employed by the clerical or civic authorities who controlled the School to draw up this code for its management; just as in 1700 the Town Council employed certain ministers and professors for the same purpose. And Vaus's connection with the town Church of St. Nicholas, with which our School had long been intimately associated, adds colour to the supposition.

A copy of these rules, engrossed on parchment, along

¹ See ch. xvi., below.

with the Code of 1700, has hung in our Hall for some years. But probably few of those who run have read it, so we shall endeavour to give the gist of them.

The reader will hardly taste the flavour of their antiquity, if he fails to realise something of the "local colour" of those times. About the beginning of the 16th century Scotland, it has been estimated, contained some 600,000 inhabitants, or about four times the present population of Aberdeen alone, and Aberdeen itself only some 4000 or 5000, about the present size of Banff. It lay huddled round the Castle Hill, all east of the Denburn Valley, where the railway now cuts Union Street, and straggled northwards by the Gallowgate and east of the "Marisch" or North Loch—the site of the Infirmary—up to Windy Wynd or thereabouts. The houses were mostly of wood and thatched, the School itself a "thekked" building, with a roof not seldom in need of repairs, to judge by the frequent mention of this item in the Town Records. The narrow streets were ill-paved and filthy, a happy breeding-ground for the plague which then frequently swept the country—the strange "seiknes of Nappillis" (Naples); so that in 1507 it was necessary to appoint men "to cleng [cleanse] the toun and dicht [dress or mend] the causaies," while "na muk" is to lie "at ony mannis yit [gate] or dur" longer than twenty-four hours, under pain of 8s., and the "muk" to be free to every person who shall "pless to tak or leid it away."¹

The School Rector then was "John Byssat" (1519–39), probably the John Bysset who was a "regent" of King's College in 1519, and Principal, 1542–46 and 1547–54. No doubt, on his induction to the Rectorship he was duly presented with the "pair of bedes" or rosaries, emblem that his office must be maintained with prayerfulness. The Provost of the town was Thomas Menzies of Pitfoddels, of a family which then held a practical monopoly of the office; and Hector Boece, most credulous of historians, was Principal of King's. The Chancellor, Bishop Gavin Dunbar, had died the year previously.

Aberdeen was then at frequent feud with its turbulent neighbours, notably the Forbesees of Brux and Pitsligo,

¹ *Memorials of the Aldermen, &c., of Aberdeen*, by Mr. A. M. Munro, p. 79.

who in 1530 tried to rush the city, but, finding it prepared, were forced to an ignominious surrender, after a day's siege in the Greyfriars. Middle-aged men could still recall the first rumours of Columbus's great discovery. "Luther's book" had lately been proscribed by the Scottish Parliament (1525), and Aberdeen, as a port closely connected with the Continent, was warned to be diligent in suppressing the new heresy. Patrick Hamilton, the first martyr of the Reformation in Scotland, had perished at St. Andrews (1528), and Henry Forest, the monk, in 1532. In this same year, 1533, John Firth, an Englishman, was burned at Smithfield for translating Hamilton's book. For Henry, in England, was more bent on being Pope in his own realms than on making any material change in the practice and doctrine of the old Church. To this end he had broken Wolsey's heart, disgraced More, and in this same year of grace incontinently got himself married to Anne Boleyn. Flodden was still a living agony in the memories of widows and orphans. How many of the twenty spearmen and six horsemen who went south from our little town won home again from that fatal field? Had it not cost Scotland one in every sixty of its population?

In all this turmoil of religion and politics, education, hitherto fostered by the Church, was like to fare ill with the fall of the monasteries and wreck of Church organisation. Statesmen like the advisers of Edward VI., Elizabeth, and Knox, struggled, but not always effectually, to snatch something for learning from the greedy claws of the nobles and the brutal ignorance of the mob. Such schools as the religious houses had cherished fell with their impoverished patrons, and "Grammar Schools" had to be founded or re-founded throughout the land. Of all the great schools now famous in England hardly more than two or three date their origin before this century of deluge and renaissance. Winchester was founded in 1387; Eton, 1440; the City of London School in 1442; St. Paul's, 1509; Manchester, 1510; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1525; Durham, 1541; Canterbury, 1542; Chester, 1544; York, 1546; Leeds, Bedford, and Birmingham, 1552; Christ's Hospital, Tunbridge, and Shrewsbury, 1553; Westminster, Oundle, and Repton, 1566; Rugby, 1567;

Harrow, 1571; Uppingham, 1581. Marlborough, Cheltenham, Clifton, Wellington, Rossall, are the creations of yesterday.

In Scotland the survival of the pre-Reformation schools, in the chief burghs, was probably due to the wiser policy of the Church in associating the civic rulers of the towns in the management of the schools. When the Church went by the board, there was still the broken reed of Town Councils to lean on, not always untainted by the prevailing greed to devour into the "Common Good" the patrimony of Church and Schools alike; but still, in a fashion, under obligation to maintain their school; and, with help of the Professors and ministers, capable of appointing Rectors after solemnly hearing the Latin "disputations" of rival candidates.

"MDLIII.

STATUTES AND LAWS OF THE LITERARY¹ SCHOOL OF
'GRAMMAR BOYS' IN ABERDEEN.

"In the first place, on entering School, the boy is to prostrate himself on the ground on bended knees, and salute Christ the Lord Supreme (*Optimum Maximum*) and the Virgin Mother of God in the following brief little prayer:—

"I thank Thee, Heavenly Father, for Thy favour during the past night, and pray for the same this day, to Thy glory and the salvation of my soul; and oh, Thou that art the true Light that knows no setting, eternal Sun, bestowing life, growth, and joy on all, deign to illumine my mind, that nowhere may I fall into sin, but by Thy guidance may attain unto life eternal. Amen. Jesu, be Thou Jesus [Saviour] unto me, and strengthen me with Thy ruling [*principali*] Spirit."²

"At 7 o'clock the Parts [grammar lessons] are to begin. This ended, let the Præceptor enter and punish those who fail with chidings or stripes. Punishment over,

¹ *Ludi Literarii*: is this to distinguish it from the other school of the town, the "Sang School"?

² The expression is from the Vulgate of Psalm li. 12, where the English Version gives "free Spirit."

there is to be public lecture [*praelectio*] on all the lessons by the Preceptor himself at 8 o'clock. Thereafter the boys are to hasten to breakfast. At 10 there is to be the private lecture of the under-teachers [*hypodidascali*], each in their own classes. At 11 or half-past 10 the poor scholars [*condiscipuli*] are to have opportunity to go into the city, and the town's bairns [*i.e.*, poor boys of the town?], if there be any, shortly afterwards. The second lecture of the Headmaster [*Archididascalus*] in Terence, Virgil, or Cicero, is to be at half-past 10, for those who have to attend it. At the stroke of noon the boys are to have interval for lunch.

"STATUTES FOR THE AFTERNOON.

"Before 2 o'clock every one is to be in School, to hear the lectures of the classes.

"There is always to be one under-teacher by turn in the building [*gymnasium*], to correct errors, mistakes in writing Latin, and those who are idle. Let them see to it, lest they themselves fall into the errors which it is their duty to check in others. At 4, after the stroke of the bell, the boys are to repeat to their teachers [*instructoribus*] the task of the day.

"Only two at a time are to be allowed to "leave the room" with the tally or stick [*cum signo aut baculo*]. None are to be let out without need, before the return of those who have had leave.

"The Headmaster [*Gymnasiarcha*] himself shall hear one or the other class besides his own highest class [implying three classes in the School], when he is so minded.

"In the evening 'Disputations' [defence and discussion of a thesis, conducted in Latin] are to be held from 5 to 6 o'clock. When these have been conned [*cognita*], let them hasten to evensong [*preces canere*. *Festinent* seems to imply away from the School; *cf.*, *jentatum festinent*, above; if so, the prayers were probably chanted at the evening service in St. Nicholas, across the way. There for long afterwards the boys had special seats: see the Laws of 1700.]

"Pythagorean [*i.e.*, strictest] silence for one year is to

be imposed on boys of the elementary class and on new boys [*elementariis et neophytis*].

"They are to learn the table of the Confession.¹

"They are to have a slight taste of Arithmetic [*numerandi artem modice praelibent*—think of it, ye who groan in the throes of 'Higher Grade' !].

"All are to speak Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French [*Gallice*], or Erse [*Hybernice, i.e. Gaelic*], never the vernacular, at least with those who know Latin.

"Each [master] is to bear his own cane.

"'Extraneans' are excluded from the '*familia*' [collective for membership of the School?—an obscure rule, seeming to mean that outsiders are not to be admitted to the classes].

"No Grammar School boy [*nullus de grege Grammaticorum*] is to have dealings with [a?] *Dialecticus* [teacher of Logic].

" LEGES.

"It shall be unlawful [for a boy] to barter, or to purchase the goods of others, or to part with his own, without the consent of the Headmaster or of his deputy [*suffraganeus*].

"There is to be no play with books, money, clothes, or food [*prandii*, the "piece"] for stakes. Only the elder pupils [*proveciores*] may play for shoe-laces or pins [*coriaceis ligaturis vel aciculis*].

"Games of chance are forbidden, as a snare to the poor [*aleae lucro gaudebunt pauperes*].

"The Play is not to be allowed except with supervision of the under-teachers.

" LAWS OF PUNISHMENT.

"None shall injure another in word or deed. If the boy injured endure it, and make reasonable complaint, the offender is to be punished. But if they brawl and

¹ If this refers to Abp. Hamilton's Catechism, published in 1552, it has an important bearing on the date of these Laws. If not, David Laing's note to Knox, *Hist.*, vol. i. 124, requires correction, as the above Laws indicate an earlier, and Hamilton's was not "a solitary instance on the part of the Roman Catholic clergy to convey spiritual instruction."

wrangle, both are to pay the penalty. But he who returns blows for words is to be punished alone. Senior scholars [*proveciores*] who by evil example cause the younger to offend are to be doubly punished—for the offence itself, and for leading others astray.

“THE FOLLOWING ARE TO BE CHASTISED.

“The disobedient. Late for School in the morning. Unable to say their ‘parts,’ with the text of the lesson. Needlessly moving from place to place. Playing truant [*discurrentes*]. Chattering during lessons. Returning late from breakfast or lunch. Dawdling when they ‘leave the room.’ Speaking in the vernacular. Absent for a long time from a class [*ab auditorio*]. Authors of evil [*authores mali*—a sufficiently comprehensive clause !].”

Then follow three passages, giving the views of Quintilian, Cicero, and Terence on the duties of youth, and the words—

“HOC FAC ET VIVES.”

H. F. M. S.

* * The above was written in 1901, and published in the *School Magazine*. While the present volume was passing through the press, the Editor's attention was called to his error in the date, 1533 for 1553, by Mr. P. J. Anderson, Librarian of Aberdeen University. These *Statuta et Leges* apparently were first printed by Theophilus Stuart, “maister of the gramer skwill of Ald Aberdeen,” who died in 1576, Spald. Miscell. ii. 43, and who published the 3rd edition of the grammar of John Vaus in 1553 (ed. 1st, 1522; 2nd, 1531). There is nothing in this edition to show whether the *Statuta et Leges* were the work of Vaus or of Stuart; but the presumption is in favour of the latter, and the reference probably to the “Grammatici” in early times attached to King's College, Old Aberdeen. The use of “Aberdonia,” &c., without qualification, for *Old Aberdeen*, contributed to the error. In ascribing these Rules to John Vaus the Editor followed Grant, *Burgh Schools*, pp. 17, 50-51, 59-62.

In any case, it can hardly be doubted that the invaluable picture here given of a school in 1553 must have been equally applicable in its main features to the older school of (New) Aberdeen, of which the present Grammar School is the lineal heir.

CHAPTER IV

THE MORTIFICATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL¹

DR. DUNCAN LIDDELL, *benefactor of Marischal College, left 6000 Merks to a Professor of Mathematics, Library, Poor, and Poor Scholars.*

9th December, 1613.

. . . "and the rest of the profite of the said six thousand Merks to be yearly given and distribute, upon Munday after Whitsunday, among the poor as follows, To witt tuelve Merks to the poor scholars in the Colledge and Grammar schooll of the said burghe." . . .

For the full text of his Mortification, see *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 120 ff.

2. MORTIFICATION by JAMES CARGILL, *Doctor of Medicine, Aberdeen, of 5300 Merks, to Poor, Hospital, Grammar School, and Poor Scholars.*

3rd March, 1616.²

For the text see ch. ii., No. 57, p. 50.

3. MORTIFICATION of 100 Punds Scots, *accumulated Profits on DR. CARGILL'S Mortification, to the use of the Edifice of the Grammar School.*

20th November, 1622.

"The said day, the Provest, Baillies and Counsall ordaines Robert Alexander, present thesaurar, to receave

¹ Extracts from "Mortifications," 1849, of what concerns the School.

² The date of his will is given as 1614 in *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 149 ff., q.v., for the full text of it.

from William Forbes, late thesaurar, the soume of ane hundreth pounds, restand in his hands of the byrune¹ profits of umquhill DOCTOR CARGILL his mortificationes ; which Soume of ane hundreth pounds is ordained to be eiked [added] to the money mortified by the said DOCTOR CARGILL for the edifice of the gramer schooll."

Sum mortified 100 pounds, or £8, 6s. 8d.

4. MORTIFICATION by ROBERT FERGUSONE, of a Bell
to the Grammar School.

16th February, 1625.

"The quilk day, in presence of the Provest, Baillies, and Counsall, Compeirit Robert Fergusone, burges of this burghe, and presented unto thame ane bell, new stockit,² quhilk he frielie gevis and mortifies, for the vse of the grammer schole of this burghe, in all tyme cumeing. Lykas he promiseissis on his awin charges to caus big a belhous, of aistler wark,³ on the said grammer schole, and to put up the said bell thairin, to serve for the vse of the said schooll, in all tyme heirefter, quhairupoun the counsall ordanis a note to be maid in the tounes bookes to be a perpetuall memoriall to the posteritie of the said Robert his beneficence foirsaid to the said grammer schole."

Extr. T. C. Reg., ii. 395.

¹ Byrun, Birun, By-runis=arrears (Jamieson).

² Quoted in Jamieson, Sc. Dict., Supplement, and explained as "fitted with a stock or stalk: mounted. *Y. Stok*," but without further reference. The bell was transferred to the belfry of the new buildings, erected or opened in 1757, and afterwards, by the abuse of stone-throwing, became cracked. It is now preserved in the School Museum, the oldest extant relic of the school's past: Height, 13½ in. ; diameter at the mouth, 12½ in. The inscription shows that it was re-cast in 1733: DENVO. ME IO: MOWAT VET: ABD. MDCCXXXIII, and on the band below, RO: FERGUSON MDXXVII. an error for MDCXXVII., with a monogram below, perhaps the maker's mark.

Robert Ferguson, in his bequest of 50 pounds (Scots) to "decayed gild bretheren," 18th Jan. 1632, is described as "merchand burges."

³ "Aistler wark" is doubtless Ashlar, in Scotland hewn and fine-dressed stone.



FERGUSON'S BELL, 1627

From a photograph by G. W. W.

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5. MORTIFICATION by a "NEIGHBOUR OF THE BURGH" of 500 merks, Scots, to a Teacher in the Grammar School.

17th September, 1628.

"The said day, the Provest, Baillies, and Counsall being conveyed in the Counsall house, Paull Menzies, the Provest, exhibited and delyvered reallie befor them, in readie doune tould money, on the counsell table, the soume of fyve hundreth merkes, usuall money of this realme; which soume ane nighbour of this brugh (who obscures his name), out of his zeall to the Godlie and vertuous educatione of the youth, in the gramer schooll of this brugh, hes frielie givin and mortified, to be employed upon books, be the Provest, Baillies, and Councell;" and "the anuel rent to be bestowed, yeirlie, in all tyme cumeing, to the doctor of the gramer schooll of this brugh, as ane helpe to his provisione, provyding that the said doctor be chosin and placed be the Provest, Baillies, and Councell of this brugh, for the tyme."

Sum mortified 500 merkes, or £27, 15s. 6d.

["This mortification is now incorporated with Dr. Dun's."]

6. *Alexander Irving's Bursaries*, 1629.

Alexander Irving of Drum, by his latter will and testament, bequeathed to the Provost, &c., of Aberdeen the sum of ten thousand pounds, Scots, for the maintenance of bursars at the Grammar School and at Marischal College, 26th December, 1629; and his son, Sir Alexander Irving, Knight, destinated the lands of Kinmuck and Richarcharie for behoof of the said bursars, 1st April, 1656.

In 1632 (*T. C. Reg.*, May 9th) "four grammaries haveand ilk ane of thame four scoir pundis mo^r yeirlie for the space of four yeires" . . . were to be appointed by the Council. *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 212, where Sir Alexander's deed, 1656, so far as it concerns the school, runs as follows:—

"Thrie hundreth and twentie pounds of the annuel

rent thair of [*i.e.* of the £10,000 Scots] to be yeirlie imployit thairefter on four schollers at the Grammer Schole of Abirdene for the space of four yeirs ilk ane of thame yeirlie Four scoir pounds money forsaide." . . .

For the subsequent history of this benefaction see *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 216 *n.* A dispute arose between the descendant of the benefactor and Marischal College as to whether the above lands had been mortified, or whether Sir Alexander's representatives were under obligation to continue only the interest of the 10,000 merks. On 26th March, 1868, the House of Lords decided in favour of the College and School (which, in this case at least, enjoyed the benefit of effective advocacy, by its powerful neighbour, the University), whereby the lands of Kinmuck, &c., were vested in the University, for the benefit of the bursars of the College and School, the Lairds of Drum to retain the right of presentation. On 19th July, 1869, the Court of Session fixed the number of school bursaries at eight, of £20, for four years. More lately, owing to a fall in rents, the values have been reduced to £15, under authority of the Court. From *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 217.

7. MORTIFICATION,

DOCTOUR PATRICK DUNE,¹

[Principal of Marischal College]

OF THE

LANDS OF FERRIEHILL,

TO THE

TOUNE OF ABERDEINE, FOR MAINTENANCE OF FOUR

MAISTERIS TO THER GRAMMER SCHOOL.

Dated 3rd August, 1631.

*Apud Aberdene decimo sexto die mensis Aprilis, Anno Domini
millesimo sexcentesimo trigesimo quarto.*

"The quhilk day, in presence of the Provost, Baillies, and Councill of the Brugh of Aberdeine, compeirit Mr.

¹ Son of Andrew Dun, burgess, and first lay Principal; Professor of Logic in 1610; Rector, Mar. Coll., 1619; Principal, 1621. According to the *Records of Marischal College*, ii. 28 (see also i. 231 ff.), ed. Mr. P. J. Anderson, New Spald. Club,

Patrick Dune, Doctor in Physick, and primar of the New College within the said Brugh, and declaired that he had lately conqueist the Lands of Ferrie hill, with the milne, milne lands, and teind sheaves thereof, lyand within the Sheriffdome of Aberdein, contigue, adjacent to the burrow ruids of this Brugh, which he has mortified to the Provest, Baillies, Councell, and Communitie of this Brugh, perpetuallie, in all time coming, for maintenance of four Maisteris within their Grammer School, in forme and manner, and upon the conditions at length set doune in his Letters of Mortification, made and subscrivit be him thereupon : Which Mortification, extracted furth of the books of our Sovereign Lord's Councell and Session, under the subscription of Sir John Hay, knight, clerk of register, together with the King's Majestie's Chartour of Confirmation thereof, under the Great Seal, the said Mr Patrick instantly produced, in presence of the saids Provest Baillies, and Councell, desiring the same to be insert and registrat in the Townes books, therin to ramane, *ad futuram rei memoriam*; and the saids Provest Baillies, and Councell, acknowledging themselves, and the whole bodie of this commonality, greatlie obleist to the said Maister Patrick, for such real expressiōne of his liberalitie and charitie to his native toune, in the mortifying of the saids lands and teinds, for maintenance of the Masters of their grammar school in all time comeing; they ordaine the saids Letters of Mortification, togidder with his Majesty's Letters of Confirmation following thereon, to be registrat in the Councellis Register of this Burgh, therein to remain *ad futuram rei memoriam*, whereof the tenor follows :—

AT EDINBURGH, the Auchteenth day of Julii, the year of God one thousand six hundred and threttie thrie years, in presence of the Lords of Councell compeired Mr Thomas Sandilands, procurator for Mr Patrick Dune, Doctor of Medicine, and gave in the letters of dispositione and mortificatione underwritten, subscrivit with his hand, de-

Patrick Dun graduated M.D. at the University of Basle, and is described as "a verie famous professor in Germanie." Author and editor of medical works. Died *circa* 1649 [but *id.* 214 n., occurs a mention of him in 1650. The MS. "Some Accounts," p. 137 below, gives 1653 as the date of his death.] His portrait, see frontispiece, on panel, by George Jamesone, and dated 1631 on the antique frame, is in the School Hall.

syring the samen to be insert and registrat in the books of Councell, *ad futuram rei memoriam*, in manner specified thereintill; the which desire the saids Lords thought reasonable, and therefore has ordained and ordains the foresaid dispositione and mortificatione to be insert and registrat in the saids books, *ad futuram rei memoriam*, in manner specified thereintill, whereof the tenor follows: BE IT KEND TILL ALL MEN, by thir present Letters, ME MAISTER PATRICK DWN, Doctor of Medicine, and Principal of the New Colledge¹ of Aberdein, For sameikle as I considering with myself that grammar schools quhilkis are the seminaries of all kynd of sciences and learning, sould be planted in all Christian commonwealthes, and competent meanes provyded for mantenance of Maisters of the saids schools, to the intent that with the greater alacrity and chearfulness they may attend their charge, and be the more painful and vigilant in training up the youth committed to ther education in vertue and good letters; I therefore out of my zeal to God's glorie, and to the flourishng of learning, and for the love I carrie to the Burghe of Aberdeen, whereof I am a borne citizen, made latelie conqueist to my myself, in lyfrent, during all the days of my lyftime, and after my decease, to be employed and mortified *ad pios usus*, in such forme and manner, and to such particular use, as be my awin writ and declaracione I sould set doune and appoynt: ALL and HAILL the TOWN² and LANDS of FERRIEHILL, with the milne, milne lands, multures,³ and sequels thereof, and with the haill ailhouss and smiddie crofts, houses, biggings, yards, tenements, tenendries, and services of frie tennents, parts, pendicles, and pertinents, of the forenamed lands, togidder with the teind sheaves of the samen, lyand within the parochin of Sanctmachar, and Schirreffdome of Aberdeine, contigue, adjacent to the burrow roods of the said burgh, as the letters of dispositione, chartour, and infestment following thereupon, made to me be Patrick Hepburne, at the little milne of Essilmonth, with consent of Mr William Hepburne, his

¹ Founded, 1593, by George Keith, fifth Earl Marischal, whose descendants continued Chancellors till the attainder of the tenth and last Earl after "the '15."

² Farm-steading.

³ Multures, fees paid for grinding grain, usually paid in kind, as grain or flour.

brother, and certain other persons therein nominat, of the date the fourth day of Junii, the year of God One thousand Six hundred and twentie-nine yeares, at mair length propoerts :—And now, becaus I ame fully resolved anent the forme and manner of the mortifying of the saids lands and teinds, and to what particular use the samen shall be mortified and destinat; therefore I by thir presents declare and mak manifest and knowne my will thereanent, to be for maintenance of four Maisters within the Grammer School of the said Brugh of Aberdeen, perpetuellie in all tyme cumeing, in form, substance, and effect after following, and upon the conditions, provisions, and limitations underwritten, and no otherwise : That is to say, to the honor of ALMIGHTY GOD, and for the benefit of Kirk and Commonewealth, Wit ye me to have frielie given, grantit, destinat, and perpetuallie mortified to the Provest, Baillies, Council, and Communitie thereof, in all tyme cuming, and to ther successors, Provest, Baillies, Council and Communitie, for mantenance of the said four Masters of the Grammer School, in manner and upon the conditions undirwritten allenarly, and no otherwise : All and haill the foresaid tounes and lands of Ferriehill, with the milne, milllands, multers, and sequels thereof, with the haill ailhouss and smiddie crofts, houses, biggings, yairds, tennents, tennendries, and service of frie tennents, pairts, pendicles, and pertinents, of the forenamed lands, togidder with the tiend sheaves thereof includit with the stock, lyand as said is, to be holden of our Sovereign Lord the King's Majesty, and his Higness successoures, now superiors of the saids lands, be virtue of the Act of Annexation of the Kirk-lands of this realm to the Patrimonie of the Crown, *in puram et perpetuam elimosinam* ; or in feu farme¹ or frie burgage, as his Majesty sall be pleased to grant the samen ; which lands were holden of old of the Prior and Convent of the Trinitie Friars of Aberdeen, in feu farme for yeerlie payment of the soume of twentie pounds usual Scots money, to the minister of the saids friers, or to whatsomever person or persones havand right thereto, at twa usual terms in the yeere,

¹ The duty or annual rent paid by the vassal or tenant to the superior.

witsonday, and mertimes in winter, be equal portions : And siclyik payand yeirlie for the teynd sheaves¹ of the saids landis to the Principal, Subprincipal, Masters, Members of the Kinges Colledge of Old Aberdeine, the soume of fiftie merks² money foresaid, at the terms of payment used and wont allenarlie ; reservand to me, the said Mr Patrick Dune, my lyfrent of the saids lands, teinds, and others foresaid, during all the days of my lyfetime : And for the better performance of the present mortificatione, and obtaining of his Majesty's infestment thereupon, for the use, and upon the conditions after specified : Witt ye me, with express advice and consent of the said Patrick Hepburne, my author of the saids lands and milne ; and also the said Patrick, for himself, his own right and entres, as last immediate tennent, and vassal thereof to our said Sovereaine Lord, and we both with mutual and uniform consent and assent, to have made, constitute, and ordained, and be thir presents, makes, constitutes, and ordains, and each one of them, conjunctly and severally, our very lawful, undoubted, and irrevocable procurator, actor, factor, messengers, and speciall earand bearers, to the effect underwritten, givand, grantand, and committand to them, and each one of them, conjunctlie and severallie, our very free, full, plaine powar, generall and speciall command, express bidding and charge, for us, and in our name, and upon our behalf, to compeir before our said Sovereign Lord or his Highness Successors, or before the Lords Commissioners appointed by his Majesty, for receiving of resignationes, and granting new infestments thereupon, and that at whatsomever day or dayes, tyme and place convenient, with all humilitie and submissione, as becometh, puirlie and simply be staff and bastoune, as use is, to resigne, renounce, surrender, up and overgive, lykas I the said Mr Patrick Dune, with advice and consent of the said Patrick Hepburne, and we both with one consent and assent, now as than, and than as now, by thir presents, resignes, renounces, surrenders, purlie and simplie for us, and either of us, our aires and assigneys, up and overgives, All and Hail the foresaid toune and

¹ Sheaves payable as tithe.

² The merk was 13s. 4d. Scots = 13½d. sterling.

lands of Ferriehill, with the milne, milne-lands, multures, sequels, ailhouss, and smiddie crofts, houses, biggings, yairdes, tennents, tennendries, and service of frie tennents, pairts, pendicles, and pertinents of the said haill lands, lyand as said is, together with the teind sheaves thereof, includit with the stock, with all right, title, entres, claime of right, propertie, or possessione, which we, or either of us, had, has, or anieways may have, claime or pretend thereto, or anie part thereof, in tyme coming, in the hands of our said Soverain Lord, or his Hienes successorcs, superiors thereof, or in the hands of the saids Lords Commissioners; and that in special favour, and for new heretable infestment of mortificatione, to be given and granted back again thereof, be our said Soverain Lord Superior foresaid, under his Majesties Great Seal, in due and competent forme, as effeires, to the saids Provost, Baillies, and Councell of the said Brugh of Aberdein, and to their successors, Provost, Baillies, and Councell of the said Brugh, for ever, to the use, and for maintenance and intertainment of four Masters within the Grammer School of the said Brugh of Aberdeine, perpetuallie in all time cuming, proportionallie amongst them, with the conditions, provisions, and limitations, as is aftermentioned, and no otherways, viz. I ordayne the yeerlie dutie of these lands, milne, and others, to be uplifted and laid upon bank ay and whill the same grow and accresce to such ane sume of money, as may buy and conquest¹ so meikle lands, well holden, and commodiously lying, as will render and pay sex hundreth merkes scotis money of yeerlie frie rent, making in all, with the present rent of the saids lands, and milne of Ferriehill, the soume of twelve hundreth merkes yeerlie; and in case of my decease before the full performance thereof, I appoint and ordain the Provost, Baillies, and Councell of the Brugh of Aberdeen, with advyce and concurrence of my loving friends, Master William Johnstone, Doctor in Physic, Maister Alexander Jaffray, and Maister Robert Farquhar, burgesses of Aberdeine, or anie of them being on lyfe, to take the paines for managing of the rent of the saids lands, milne, and teynds, and of the yeerlie imployment thereof upon

¹ Acquire.

bank, till the same may accresce in manner, and to the proportione, for the effect forsaid; which haill full rent of twelve hundreth merkes Scots money, I ordain to be employed upon the maintenance and entertainment of four Masters¹ of the Grammer School of the said Brugh of Aberdeine; and the first and principal Master whereof, I ordaine to teach the High Class of the said School, and to have the inspection and oversight of the rest of the Masters,² and to have of yeerlie stipend the soume of sex hundreth merkes money, of the rent of the saids lands; and every one of the remanent thrie Masters to have yeerlie twa hundreth merkes money, with this condition that it shall not be lawful to any of the saids four Masters to take any more salarie³ or stipend from anie scholar within the said school, except thretteine shillings four pennies Scots money,⁴ at the most, each quarter of yeire, unless he be the sone of a Marquis, Earle, Viscount, Lord, or Barron, from whom the Maisters sall have libertie, to tak such stipend for instructione of ther bairns, as the Noblemen or Barrones shall be pleased to bestow upon them,⁵ and that each Master sall take the said stipend from the schollares of his owne class allenarlie :—

SECOND, whatsumever scholar, comeing to the said Grammer School, and bringing with him ane testimonial, subscribed be honest and famous men, declaring his povertie, or the povertie of his parents, shall be teachd gratis :—

THIRDLIE, all those that are of the surname of Dune, of whatsomever rank or conditione they be, shall be likewise

¹ The rotation of teachers here intended, see App. i., also see *Officers and Graduates of King's College*, 313 ff., followed the lines of King's and Marischal Colleges, where in early times each Regent in turn commenced with the "bajans," and carried them on through the second and third years of their course, when they were handed over to the Principal for instruction. The introduction of a 5th or "High Class," in addition to the 4th or "Low Class," both taken by the principal master or Rector, would naturally arise in the case of pupils immature for College or unsuccessful at the Bursary Competition. As the scholars' fees formed an important part of each master's stipend, the Rector's salary must have suffered considerably in this item, by the regular falling away of unpromising pupils, and in the "lean" years produced by an unpopular under-master, see p. 173.

² Beyond these vague terms, it does not appear that any authority was conferred on the Rector over his colleagues. This state of things lasted well into the 19th century. Even in the choice of books the Rector had to appeal to the Visitors in order to escape the inconvenience of having to teach two classes trained on different grammars. *Visitation Book*, vol. ii.

³ *Al schollarie*, i.e. school-fee, or scholage.

⁴ See note 2, p. 116.

⁵ It is to be hoped that *noblesse oblige* ruled the pleasure of these noblemen.

tached gratis ; and if it sall be tryed, that any of the saids four Masters receive, directlie or indirectlie, any monie, or anie other benefite whatsomever, from anie poor schollar, or yet from anie of the surname of Dune, the Master contravening, after due tryal thereof, immediately sall be deprived, *ipso facto*, of his place in the said school, and ane other admitted and placed therein ; and so also sall the whole tennents sones of the said lands of Ferriehill, and haill remanent lands to be conquest for the use foresaid, be teached gratis perpetuallie, in all tyme comeing : And for the better performance and conservation of this my mortification, I declare, that, during all the days of my lyfetime, I myself sall be only and absolute Patrone and presenter of the saids four Masters, and each one of them, as their places sall happen to vaike ;¹ and, after my decease, I nominate, constitute, appoynt, and ordayne the Provest, Baillies, and Councell of the said Brugh of Aberdeen for the time, with Maister Robert, Charles, and Patrick Dunnes, my brother sones, and their aires male of perfyte aige, they being known to be honest and conscientious men, and not given to railing, to be Patrons and conservators *in perpetuum*, of this my mortification, and presenters of the said four Masters, and every one of them as their places happens to vaike, and to see the haill points of this present mortification, preciselie performed and executed, as it is here set doune, and the yeerlie rents of the foresaid lands, teinds, and others, abovementioned, to be bestowed and employed as foir-desygned, and to no uther use, *sub pena anathematis* : And forder, I ordain the first and principal Master of the said school to come yeerlie, at Michaelmas, to the said Provest, Baillies, and Councell of Aberdein for the tyme, and desyre them to nominat and appoynt visitors for visitatione of the said school, once at least every month for that year, and to appoint the saids visitors to take just notice and tryell if the laws of the said school be observed, both in doctrine and discipline, and if the whole conditions of this my mortification be also kepted be the saids Masters, after the form and tenor thereof ; and when the saids visitors finds any break or violation, that they mak

¹ Become vacant.

faithful report accordinglie to the saids Provest, Baillies, and Councill. Lykas I appoint the said Principal Master to come once each month and put the Magistraces and Councill in mynd to direct their visitors to make visitation of the said school to the effect foresaid, wherein, if the said Principal Master sall be found deficient in not desyring of the said monthly visitatione, I ordain him for each months defect in this dutie, *toties quoties*, to tyne¹ and omitt ten markes money of his stipend : Declaring hereby, that it sall be lawful to anie honest man within the Towne of Aberdeen, to challenge the said principal Master of this neglect, before the Provest and Baillies of the said Brugh for the tyme, and he being culpable and defective therein, I ordayne the challenger to have the said ten markes for his paynes,² so oft as the said principal Master sall be found deficient in desiring of the said monthly visitatione : And in lyke manner, if anie of the saids four Masters sall deboard or deboishe³ in lyfe or conversatione, or to be tryed any time absent, cairles, and defective in their dutie incumbent to them be their office, I ordayne also, *ipso facto*, that the Master found deboarding in life, and defective in duty, sall be deprived of his office be the Provest, Baillies, and Councill of the said Brugh for the tyme, and of all benefite thereof, in all tyme thereafter, and anothor to be admitted in his place, after the order above prescrivit ; and as for the tryell of the qualifications of the said four Masters, I commit the same, in all tyme cumeing, to two of the Ministers of the Brugh of Aberdeen, whom the Councill for the tyme sall be pleased to nominat for that effect, and to the Principal and four Regents within the New Colledge of the said Brugh, who being solemnlie sworn, in presence of the Councill, sall testifie the presented ane or mae to be worthie, and sufficiently learned and qualified for such ane place : Bot if any of my own surname,⁴ or anie of the sones of the tennents⁵ of

¹ Lose.

² An odious encouragement to "delators," then and later much prevalent in Scotland, fostered by Acts of Parliament to similar effect.

³ Deboard, or debord, and deboish (Aberd.) of any sort of excess or intemperance (Jamieson's Dict.).

⁴ The least worthy provision of the will, and the only one observed with some fidelity by the city ; see List of Masters, App. i.

⁵ See p. 85, No. 123, for a claim on this count.

Ferryhill, or the sons of anie other tennents of lands that sall happen to be conquest and mortified to the use foresaid, be found qualified for such a place in the said Grammar School, when the same sall vaike, let them be preferred, without any contestatione ; and failing of them, that they be not suittars for that place, I ordayne an program to be affixt on ane Sunday, on the most patent doore for the tyme, of Sanct Nicolas Parish Church of Aberdein, and intimatione made both south and north, within three monthes to present themselves, who are desyrous of such a place ; and after tryall taken of these who sall present themselves, let them aither be admitted or rejected, according to their sufficiencie or insufficiencie ; and immediately before their admission, ane oath sall be exacted of them, to do what lyes in their power for the well of the College Marischall within the Brugh of Aberdein, and to prefer the same to all the Colleges, in giving councell to their schollares to be brought up in the foresaid College Marischal, humblie entreating our gracious and dreade Soveraine the King, his excellent Majestie, and his Lords Commissioners appoynted for granting infestments, would be pleased to give and grant, in most ample form, his Majesty's Chartour of Confirmatione of this my mortificatione, under the Great Seal, in due and competent forme, under and upon the conditions and provisions above written : Lykas I DECLARE, DECERNE, and ORDAYNE this my WILL and MORTIFICATIONE to STAND UNALTERABLE, INVIOLEABLE, and UNCHANGEABLE, in all tyme hereafter for ever ; and for that effect I desyre the Right Noble and Potent Earle, William Earl Marischall, his aires and successores, Earles of Marischal, to see this my mortification conserved in full integritie, and employed to the use abovewritten allendarlie, and no urtherwise, seing it tends to the weill and standing of his Colledge within the said Brugh : As likeways I earnestly entreat the saids Patrons to be careful that the few and teind duties of the saids lands and teynd be precisely payed at the terme of Mertimes yeirlie, that no inconvenient come upon stock or teynd, in default of not tymous payment of the saids few and teynd duties, to whatsumever person or persons having right thereto ; and for the mair security

of the premises, I ordayne, am content, and consents, that thir presents be insert and registrat in the Books of Councill and Sessione, or Townes Books of Aberdeen, *ad futuram rei memoriam*; and to that effect I constitute Master Thomas Sandilands my lawful procurator, *promitten. de rato*, be thir presents, written be Patrik Smith, Notar Public, and subscryved be me :—At Aberdeen, the third day of August, the yeir of GOD One thousand Sex hundred threttie and ane yeires before thir witnesses, the said Master Alexander Jaffray, Maister Thomas Mercer, writer in Edinburgh, and the said Patrik Smith, writer hereof; Sic subscrib. Patrik Dunt, D. with my hand; Mr Alexander Jaffray, witness, Mr Thomas Mercer, witness; Patrick Smith, writter and witness.—*Extractum de libro actorum per me dominum Joannem Hay, de landis militem, clericum rotulorum, regi ac Concilii Supremi Domini nostri Regis, sub meo signo et subscriptione manualibus; sic sub. J. Hay. cls. registri.*—Extracted by

JOHN ANGUS,
TOWN-CLERK.

The charter of Confirmation under the Great Seal, above referred to, is dated at Holyrood House, 20th July, 1633.

8. MORTIFICATION of GEORGE ROBERTSON, Burgess of Aberdeen, of 1000 Merks Scots, to a Bursar at the Grammar School; and of his Books to the Masters of the Grammar School.

26th October, 1644.

“I, Maister George Robertstone, burges of Aberdeine, lauffull sone to umquhill Hendrie Robertstone, Cordiner, burges of the said brugh, . . . for the love and favour I have and beare to the toune of Aberdeine, and flourisch-ing of learning therin, . . . and understanding that the grammer schooll of the said brugh of Aberdeine, for better instructing of the youth, and ease of the master of the said schooll, It is to be furnished and provyded with a sufficient number of doctouris, and that no provision as yit is made, to my knowledge, for weell inclyned bairnes

of decayit burgessis and frie craftsmen of the said brugh, Therfor, and to the effect ane bursar, being ane sone of ane decayed burges of gild, or decayed frie craftsmene of the said brugh, may be founded and setled, in all tyme cumeing, in the grammer schooll of the said brugh of New Aberdeine, I leave destinat and mortifie to the said grammer schooll, for the use and maintenance of ane poore bursar therin, of the qualitie aforsaid, the Soume of ane thousand merks, good and usuall Scots money," the interest to be paid at Whitsunday and Martinmas, "and that bursar I ordayne to be admitted to the said burse, and yeerlie benefite therof, be the provest baillies and Councell of the said brugh of Aberdeine, with advyce of the principall of the new colledge of the said brugh, and of the master of the said grammer schooll; and to continewe with the uptaking therof yeerlie of the said Soume, for the space of four yeeres, allendarlie; at the outrunning of the which four yeeres, I ordayne ane uther bursar of the qualitie, capable of learneing, and enclyned therto, be admitted be the said magistrats and Councell, with advyce forsaid . . . and if it sall happen the said burser deborde¹ and miscarrie himself, and behave himself leudlie, in that caice, *ipso facto*, to be depyved of the said burse and benefite therof, and ane uther to be admitted in his place. Lykas, I leave my haill bookes² to the master and doctors of the said grammer schooll, and to ther succesouris, in all tyme heirefter, who sall be comptable to the said magistrats and Counsall of the said brugh, that the samen bookes sall be furthcumeing and extant to the saids masters and doctors, and ther forsaid, conforme to the Inventar therof. . . ."

Sums mortified—To a Bursar at Grammar School
1000 merks Scots, or £55, 11s. 1½d.

9. DR. GUILD, 12th August, 1657, mortified, *inter alia*, 7000 merks Scots, or £388, 17s. 9d., for "poore orphanes, to hold them at schooles or trades, impartiallie, without invertin anie way this mortificatione, as they shall answeire to God at the last day." The money was to be

¹ See p. 120, note 3.

² See pp. 78-9.

"secured on land, by the toune councell, and Sessione, of Abirdeine. . . ." For the text of his will, see *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 280 ff.

10. MORTIFICATION by CATHARINE ROLLAND, widow of Dr. William Guild, of the lands of Mill Town of Murtle, and lands of Ardfork and Kilblain, to the support of bursars, burgesses' Widows, Maidens and Poor.

9th December, 1659.

[*Abstract.*] In this will Catharine Rolland mortified the lands of Milltown of Murtle in the parish of Nether Banchory, estimated in yearly rent in victual, at the rate of 100 merks the chalder, "all owerheid," *i.e.* without distinction, taking one with another, at three chalders victual, whereof two chalders meal and one chalder bear; and the lands of Ardfork and Kilblain, a wadset disposed by Patrick Urquhart to the late Dr. Guild, estimated in yearly rent, "at present," at 44 bolls victual, and 350 merks of money, which in all, at 100 merks the chalder for the victual, both silver and victual, "all owerheid," came to 600 merks yearly rent. Whereof 10 Bolls victual to each of 4 Bursars at Marischal College who shall be sons of decayed Burgesses of Guild: 7 Bolls victual to 4 Bursars at the Grammar School, also sons of decayed Guild Burgesses, 1 Bursar to be in every class both at school and college: the Bursars to be of honest parentage, well inclined and given to learning: if immoral, to be censured or deprived: 4 Bolls were to be given to every graduate Bursar, if he inclined to study Divinity, and 20 punds yearly for 1 or 2 years thereafter: 48 punds yearly, to be paid to 6 poor Scholars, at any English or Grammar School to get their education for nothing, "whilke be tuelue markis to ilke one of them for buying them ane Suit of Cloaths for the winter Season"¹: 1 year's rent of the above lands was to be "stocked" for

¹ Blessings on the kindly soul of good Catharine Rolland, and the Lord forgive those who have shorn her generous will of its benevolent intent, swamped it and her name in so-called "Town Council Scholarships," and made of it the price of a bicycle to the rich. For the text of her will, see *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 294 ff.

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payment of Bursaries to Students of Divinity and "sex poore Schollaris, in manir abouewritten": preference to be given to her own kin by Father or Mother's side, after whom to "whosoeur beis of the surname of Rolland . . ." with other benefactions to six widows: also 9 bolls victual to each of 2 bursars at College or Grammar School, who shall be sons of honest men of the parish of King Edward, or if preferred by the Kirk Session, the said 18 bolls to be paid to the poor of the said parish; and 2½ bolls victual to the Town Clerk of Aberdeen, &c.; the patrons of all which were to be the Council, the Principal of the College, and male heirs of James Rolland, her nephew.

Gross rental in the accounts for 1661-2, 769 punds 11s. 8d. Scots = £64, 2s. 7d. sterling, with 1 year's rental, including interest (not received till 6 April, 1665).

1700 merks Scots = £94, 8s. 10d. sterling.

II. MORTIFICATION by JAMES MILNE, *Senior, Burgess of Aberdeen*, of 2500 Merks Scots (£138, 17s. 9d. sterling) to two Bursars at Marischal College. (See also *Rec. Mar. Coll.*, i. 316 ff., where the will is dated 2nd June, 1677.)

16th June, 1677.

James Milne, merchant in Aberdeen, left this sum "for the supplie of young boyes," to maintain two Scholars, as Bursars, at Marischal College, the Council to be patrons. These Bursars must "have learned ther courss in the grammar schooll," of a good inclination, and be sons of poor parents or orphans, with preference to his own kin and the kin of his spouse, Elspet Donaldsone, and were to have these Bursaries for 1 year more, "for studieing theologie, or any other sciences, as they shall think fitt": the Bursars to pay only 10 merks Scots of fees yearly either at Marischal College, or at King's College, if the Regents of the former be not content to accept of them at the said rate.

Under the Provisional Order of 1881 the Milne and Fraser bursaries were united into one of £20 per annum. It does not appear that the School's interest in the benefaction was regarded.

12. MORTIFICATION by GEORGE CRUICKSHANK, *Examiner of the Customs at Edinburgh*, of £200 sterling, to maintain a Burgess' son at the Grammar School for 5 years at £5 sterling yearly, and giving him £20 as an Apprentice Fee, "or otherways fitting him for Business."

11th March, 1746.

In 1704, the moneys belonging to various Mortifications, including those of Dr. Liddel, James Cargill, and Dr. William Guild, were invested by the Town Council in the purchase of half of the Lands and Barony of Torry, for behoof of the different funds which contributed to the purpose: whereof Dr. Liddel's acquired $\frac{5}{10}$ ths and $\frac{4}{10}$ ths of $\frac{1}{10}$ th; James Cargill's $\frac{2}{10}$ ths; Dr. William Guild's $\frac{4}{10}$ ths and $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of $\frac{1}{10}$ th. These Lands were feued out about 1786 and 1796. Along with the lands the town by charter, 1st Feb. 1804, acquired the valuable salmon-fishing rights in the sea, originally let for £10 on a 7 years' lease, and, in 1837, relet on a 7 years' lease for £744 a year. It does not appear that the Mortifications were credited with any of this advantage.

It is remarkable that in the general statement laid before the Town Council, "Aberdeen Mortifications, 1849," p. 243 ff., including the Vidimus, pp. 253-4, showing the present values, the Town Council and its advisers were silent as to the bequest of Dr. Patrick Dun, while taking credit for the present increase, in some cases over ten times the original value, as "entirely the result of the careful system of management."

In 1811 Walter Thom published a "History of Aberdeen," in 2 volumes, wherein he discusses the fate of the Dun bequest at considerable length. His account of the school mortifications and the claims made on the Council at various times by the Masters appears to have been based largely, if not exclusively, on a MS. document, transcribed below. The original, or a contemporary copy, in possession of the School, consists of 5 folio sheets, 8 pp. of writing, roughly stitched, and without cover.

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From the concluding notes, written, according to a MS. pencil note in the margin, in 1812, the body of the statement was drawn up about 1796 (?); see p. 135, last par., and p. 136, note 1. The last page is endorsed:—

A BREIF ACCOUNT OF THE FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF FOUR MASTERS IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF ABERDEEN SINCE THE YEAR 1614.

About 1614 Dr. Cargill¹ mortified to the Grammar¹⁶¹⁴ School of Aberdeen 1000 Merks, which have never been accounted for.

Previous to the Mortn. of Ferryhill Dr. Patrick Dun mortified 500 Merks to a Doctor in the Grammar School and the @ rent thereof (£20 Scots) was accordingly paid to one of the Doctors for some time. But after the year 1667 or there about, no more notice is taken of it.

April 16th, Dr. Patrick Dun, "Doctor of Physic, and¹⁶³⁴ Primary of the New College," gave in to the Council a deed, whereby he mortified the Lands of Ferryhill for the maintenance "allenary" of four Masters in their Grammar School. The yearly rent of which Lands he appoints to be laid "upon Bank, ay and until the same grow and accresce to such ane sum of money, as may buy and conquire sae meikle Lands, well-holden and commodiously lyand, as will render and pay 600 Merks of yearly free rent, making in all with the present rent of the said Lands the sum of 1200 Merks yearlie"—and appoints three of his "loving friends" whom he names, who in case of his own decease before the full performance thereof, were to co-operate with the Magistrates till the rent should accresce for purpose aforesaid. He reserves to himself the right of management during his own natural life,—and it would seem that all these three Gentlemen had been dead before himself, at least as far as appears from the sequel, they had never taken any concern in the matter.

The Writes of Ferryhill² were received from Dr. Dun's¹⁶⁵³ Heirs, together with Rothiemay's³ Bond for 1000 Merks,^{June 15} and a year's interest (at 6 pr. ct.), being the amount of the

¹ See Extr. T. C. Reg., No. 56, p. 76.

² See p. 75, No. 108.

³ Namely, Wm. Gordon of (?), husband of Lady Rothiemay, who in 1642 founded a Girls' School in Aberdeen.

rents accumulated under his own management, which together with that year's rent of Ferryhill, makes in all a sum of 1660 Merks.

1666.
July 14.

The Council declare the Mortification accresced, and sufficient for the purposes expressed in the deed, and not waiting, as was enjoined them, till "they conquered Lands," they ordered the Master's [*sic*] Salaries to be paid for the Current half year; according to the proportion fixed by the founder, namely to Mr John Forbes, Master 300 Merks.

To each of the two under Masters 100 Merks 200 ,,
the third Master's place, it appears, being then vacant. At this period the accumulated sum must have amounted to upwards of 14,000 Merks, which at 6 p. ct., the then legal interest, would have produced 840 Merks—and this with 600 Merks, the annual rent of Ferryhill, would have made up more than the sum required. But not a word is there as yet about purchasing Lands as the Deed required,—and to this neglect is to be ascribed all the [mismanaged and *deleted*] loss that the fund afterwards sustained. Indeed, had the Treasurer's or proper security been taken for the stock, till a proper opportunity of laying it out upon Lands

occurred, this (*manifest*) ^{neglect} *transgression* of the *Deed* might have been the more excusable. But it appears that the greater part of the monies belonging to this Mortn. had from the beginning, been lent to such persons as *were in the Magistracy or connected with it, altho'* | by no means in thriving circumstances. Accordingly considerable losses were sustained, and no diligence seems to have been done, till too late, to recover the debts. (The persons alluded to are Provost Gray, P. Petrie of Portlethen,¹ Baillie Alexander, Baillies Robt. and G. Melville and J. Anderson, who all became insolvent.) It was observed that at this time, the accresced rents ought to have amounted to at least 14,000 Merks. By the statement at

¹ There were three Grays, Provosts, within the period, Thomas Gray of Mamewlay, 1655; Gilbert Gray, of Saphock, 1660-61, and again, 1633-1666; and William Gray, 1662. There is nothing in the above record, nor in Mr. A. M. Munro's *Provosts, etc., of Aberdeen*, to indicate which of the three was the defaulter. Gilbert Gray was succeeded in 1664-5 by the Robert Petrie of Portlethen, in the text, again Provost in 1674. For an interesting account of the cause of Provost Petrie's difficulties, his fine, in 1665, and imprisonment by the Government for an offensive letter, see Mr. Munro's *Provosts*, p. 177.

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Michalmas (1666) it appears that there was of stocked money bearing interest £4703, 2s. Scots (7054½ Merks) and after paying a great many charges, there was in the Master of Mort^m hands a free balance of £2294, 17s. 7d. (3442 Merks not bearing interest). So that it appears there was this year of stock 10,496½ M. which might have been laid out, as destined, upon buying Lands. But the sum by proper management ought by this time to have amounted to about 14,864 M^a had it not suffered considerably from time to time by bad debts, (as appears from the extracts,) but particularly by the Master of Mortifications keeping a floating balance in his own hands, of generally 2000 or 3000 Merks, for which he charges himself with no interest. Besides there ought to have been the capital of the two first Mortifications Cargil's 1000 and Dun's 500 Merks, the interest of which from their respective dates, the Council was at liberty to have given the Masters. So that this year, the whole bearing Interest for the use of the Masters, should have been—

Accumulated rents, allowing for expenses of management and bad debts, 864 Merks		14,000
Dr. Cargil's never noticed	.	1000
Dr. Dun's first Mortification never mentioned after this date	.	500
		15,500

which sum at 6 p. ct. would have produced 930 Merks, and this with the yearly rent of Ferry-hill 600 Merks was 1530 Ms. instead of 1200 M. for the Masters. So that the Mortification might have been sufficient some years sooner.

† But granting that the fund had been hitherto managed with the strictest fidelity, it must be allowed that at this period, the Council was guilty of an egregious error.

But it is likewise observable, that the Council,¹

For [*scored out*] instead of complying with their own act passed in the preceeding year (June 14th 1665) ap-

¹ The words "But . . . Council" in a different hand, evidently intended as a substitute for the passage marked † and with a line, as above.

pointing the Master of Mertifications to gather in "the monies and sums due, that the same might be laid out upon land, conform to the Mortification, at Whitesunday next"¹ (July 14th 1666) from having the sums collected, and laid out upon Lands, as their predecessors had appointed, declare the Mortification accresced and able for the purposes, contained in the deed, while there is a sum of £4703, 2s. Scots (7054½ M^s) still in the hands of 14 different persons, several of whom in the end became insolvent. And in consequence of this declaration, they proceed to pay the master's [*sic*] full salaries from this date to 1676.

1674. Interest² of money lowered from 6 to 5 p. ct., the alteration of which should have instantly affected the Masters' Salaries, or rather the stock till such time, as it had been laid out upon Land. But from 1666, tho' some insolvencies happened in the interim, the salaries seem to have been paid the Masters in *full*, not only to this date, but to 1676, when by paying out of the capital the yearly balance that was wanting to make up the 1200 Merks,—by purchasing premiums to the Scholars at the Visitation ever since 1669, by bad debts and *mismanagement*, of both which there are several instances (from 14 July 1666 to 6th Dec^r 1676) as per Extracts,³ the Council on that day decree, that as D^r Dun's Mort^m was *not able* to pay the Master's and under masters' salaries, and as the principal Master was now dead,⁴ it would be a good means for improving the fund, that his place should be *VAIKE* for some years, and appoint the monies belonging to the Mortification to be uplifted and stocked anew, upon Lands or other sufficient security against Whitesunday next.

But in 1676 there ought to have been a considerable increase of the fund, instead of a diminution (had it been managed with any economy), for from 1666 there might

¹ *In the margin*, "They (scored out) at Whitesunday next."

² This whole passage down to "... against Whitesunday next" bracketed by a long line in the margin.

³ *Id est*, from the Town Council Records.

⁴ Robert Skene, Rector, 1670-1676. This explains the "*Interregnum*. School under John Findlater," appointed Rector or Master, 1679; see List of Rectors, App. I.

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have been a saving of about 240 Merks annually, exclusive of the two first mortifications, and 1200 M^s. to the masters, allowing that to have been legal. Still not a farthing of the accumulated rents should have been paid away, till the stock had been actually laid out upon land. So that the supposed capital in 1666 of 14,000 Merks, if allowed to accumulate, would by the year 1676 have amounted (rents of Ferry-hill included) to 30,000 Merks allowing 1240 for accidental losses and expences. The capital of 1500 Merks¹ always remained, the interest of which ought *only* to have been given to the Masters.

At this period, they seemed² determined to carry the Mortifier's will into effect, accordingly

The Lands of Gilcomston are to be purchased for the 1676.
Mortifications. 30th Aug.

Ordain the monies belonging to Dr. Dun's Mortification to be uplifted against Whitsunday next, and stocked a new upon Land or other sufficient security. 6th Decr.

The buying of the Lands of Gilcomston to be prosecute 1677.
at the price of Merks, and the Dⁿ on the Mortification to be advertised to pay the sums necessary ag^t 24 Jany.
Whitsundy next.

Considering that they behoved to *perfyte* the bargain 21 or 25
for the Lands of Gilcomston &^{ca} with the Laird of Pit- Feby.
foddels against Whitsunday next, therefore to effectuate the same, recommend to the Master of Mortifications to seek in all the rediest monies, particularly of Sir Tho^r Crombie's and D^r Dun's Mortifications.

For an act anent £12,000 of Taxation, wherein the 1678.
Town's debt is all taken notice of, it is said as follows, July 31st.
viz.—as also the Burgh is resting of Principal sum to D^r Dun's mortification £1866, 13s. 4d. which behoved to be paid at Whitsunday. *Fer conform to the Mortⁿ, there was settled upon Land* ten thousand Merks *thereof* for the use of the undermasters (it should have been simply *Masters*) of the Grammar School (and that sum was ane part of the price of the land as said is. Ten thousand merks

¹ Evidently, Cargil's mortification and Dr. Dun's *first* mortification.

² Over these words, in pencil, "cancel."

thereof;) The Mortification, *must therefore* at this time have amounted *to more*

At this period the fund by proper management, might have amounted to 36,000 Merks (independent of the first Mort^{ns} 1500 Merks) and after deducting 620 M^a [*scored out*] after making allowances for incidental expences and losses.

28th May
1679.

Bad however as the management had hitherto been [*this clause has a bracket after it, as if intended to be omitted*] The Council had now actually laid out the whole, or principal part of the money upon Land as required by the Deed,—but their successors *finding* (*probably that the land was a good bargain and a very*) improveable subject, *of which they wished the Treasury to draw the profits*, Enacted, that the disposition to the lands of Gilcomston should be in the Treasurer's name, for the Towns behoof.—This act runs upon a narrative of the Council's predecessors having purchased the lands of Gilcomston for behoof of certain Mortifications,—and appoints the Disposition *already executed* by Pitfoddels, to the Mortifications to be *cancelled*, and a new Disposition of the Lands to be execute in favour of the Treasurer, and the Treasurer to give security to the Mortifications for the sums advanced by them. Yet notwithstanding, the Mortification is next year charged with £14, 5s. 2d. as expences anent Gilcomston, for it's proportion of charges in searching the Register of Inhibitions and Sasines.

(From this time, the fund seems to have been managed sometimes better, sometimes worse,—the Masters salaries paid at one time from the Treasury, at another from the Mortification, and sometimes partly from both, *till*) In the year 1754, the Treasurer acknowledges himself indebted to the Master of Mortifications £5128, 6s. 8d. Scots (7692 merks).)

The Lands of Ferryhill had been, by virtue of the original lease granted by D^r P. Dun, possessed by the Moirs of Ferry hill, at the yearly rent 600 merks, from about 1630, to 1750,—about which time, in order to augment the Masters' salaries, the Council *much to their honour*, began to treat with William Moir Writer in Abⁿ,

the then Tacks man, about giving up the privilege on the Lands. They soon obtained a full renunciation thereof, in consideration of his receiving an annuity¹ of £60 St^r and before the year 1754 the lands were all feued out for £1968 Scots (£164 St^r) besides a clear sum of about £977 St^r in name of advance money. At this time too, the Treasurer acknowledges himself indebted to the Mortⁿ £5128, 6s. 8d. Scots (£427, 7s. 2d. St^r) a sum far inferior to what the accumulated rents ought by this time to have amounted to.

Yet the interest of even this sum, together with the feu duty, and interest of advance money, might have afforded a genteel Salary to the Masters, and a reasonable prospect of an augmentation at some future period,—as the money ought, according to the deed, to have been laid out upon Land, and that Land, let upon moderately long leases, not feued off, which entirely precludes all possibility of an increase of salary, in proportion as the value of money decreases. Not to mention the 1500 merks and interest thereon since 1667.

† The Masters accordingly about this period, began to petition the Council for an augmentation of Salary, and after some time received for answer, "The Council having again considered the Petition of the Masters of the Grammar School, agree that the head Master shall be augmented 400 Merks, and each of the under Masters 200 M^r which sums shall be in full of all they *can, or ever shall* ask of Salary, during their incumbency, and that they become bound by a writing under their hands, never to demand any more,—and to concur in a declarator to be raised before the Lords of Session, not only for the payment of the debt² due to the Treasury by the Mortification, but also to have the said augmented Salaries confirmed, and the said augmented Salaries to commence only at the first term after such declarator is obtained."³

¹ Note, on the opposite blank page of the MS., "In consequence of the annuitant's death, this annuity was only paid a year or two."

² Opposite this, on the blank page of the MS., "This was a claim of £1200 advanced by the Treasurer at different times, when the mortification was not in a situation, as it often was, to pay the Masters' Salaries. Unluckily a great part of the sum had been advanced before the Mortification took effect. The account had been drawn up by Clerk Cochran. [Walter C., Town-Clerk Depute, 1728?]"

³ Pencil note in the margin, "No advance to Headmaster since the above period."

The state of the fund, had this been agreed to, would have been thus—

Head Master's salary } 600 & 400 = 1000 m ^s .	£55 11 1½	Interest of £427, 7s. due } by their own acco ^t	£21 7 0
Under Master's Salary } 600 & 600 = 1200	66 13 4	Interest of £977 advance } money	48 17 0
	£122 4 5½	Yearly feu-duty . . .	164 0 0
			£234 4 0

This statement, without any commentary, is a sufficient reason why the Masters did not accept of the offer. For let it always be remembered that they were entitled to all the produce of the fund. At last (after two years spent in petitions and proposals) and after having made some most unwarrantable concessions, for the sake of peace, the Masters agreed to submit the matter to two Arbiters, mutually chosen (rather than be under the disagreeable necessity of commencing a process). They, accordingly chose Mr. Geo. Turner Sheriff-Clerk on their *part*, and the Council appointed M^r. Alex^r. Thomson advocate, their own Consultor, and to no one else would they agree to submit the matter. In this submission it is remarkable that no Oversman was allowed to be chosen, in case of the Arbiters disagreeing.

1754.
3th [sic]
Novr.

The arbiters gave the following *extraordinary* Decreet—
“We &^{ca} having according to the powers given us by said submission met the Parties Submitters, and having heard, seen, and considered the claim made by the said Masters for an augmentation of their Salaries, and likewise the answers made to the fore said claim, with D^r. Dun's Deed of Mortification, with the claim made by the Treasurer of Aberdeen for monies advanced by former Treasurers for making up the Docter's [*sic*] Salaries, when the Mortification could not bear the same &^{ca} do in one voice pronounce our Decreet Arbitral in manner following—

“We find that from and after the death of W^m. Moir, the Masters are entitled to 1968 Scots (£164 St^r.) which sum¹ we find to be the free feu duties of Feryhill yearly,

¹ Note on opposite blank page, “£164 the present amount of all the Masters' Salaries.”

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in full of all they can lay claim to during their Incumbencies.

“Item—In regard that for many years past, the Treasurers of Ab^{dn} have been obliged to pay to the Doctors of said School part of their Salaries, because the Mortification was not in a condition to answer the same, therefore in recompence for the same, we ordain the Bond granted by the Treasurer for £5128 Scots (£427, 7s. 2½d. St^r) to be *cancelled and extinguished*—

“Item—We find that the hail other funds belonging to the Mortification ought to be reserved by the Magistrates as patrons to be by them applied to the *building a convenient Schoolhouse*, and for a fund for supporting the same, in the first place, and afterwards for defraying expences of management, and making up to the Masters deficiencies of the said feu duties.

“Item—We find that when any casualties happen by entry of Vassals, either as Heirs or singular Successors, these ought to be applied by the Magistrates for indemnifying them for any pre-advances of the said Masters’ additional Salaries, or otherwise.

“And this we declare to be our Decreet Arbitral &^{ca}”

This Decreet *could only be good* as long as it was not called in question, for it was *ultra vires* of the parties, as being in direct opposition to the Deed of Mortification—which expressly appoints the whole profits of the fund, for the maintenance of the Masters *allenarly*. Accordingly serious thoughts were entertained by the Masters at the time about reducing it—but for a variety of reasons, the attempt has never yet been made,—and for the last 40 years and *upwards* their salaries have got *no augmentation*.¹

[*with the date 1812, in pencil, in the margin*] Fer 53
[*the 3 written over a 2*] years and upwards [*these two words*

¹ On the blank page opposite this, but apparently in reference to the fourth preceding paragraph, the following has been written, but scored out:—

“This was a claim of £1200 advanced by the Treasurer at different times, when the Mortⁿ. was not in a situation, as it often was, to pay the Masters Salaries. Unluckily a great part of the sum had been advanced before the Mortification took effect. The account had been drawn out by Clerk Cochran.” [Apparently Walter Cochran, grandson of the Provost of the same name, appointed Depute Town-Clerk in 1728. Mr. Munro’s *Provosts*, p. 189.]

scored out] the principal Master's salary has received no augmentation.

[*In another hand and ink*] And during the last 53 years, the Masters have received no augmentation of Salaries, except ten Pounds, which was given to three of them about nine years ago.¹

ACCOUNT OF THE STOCK BELONGING TO DR. PATRICK DUN'S
MORTIFICATION OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLE.²

1742.
Impr.

	§ Scots money.
Resting to it by the Town of Aberdeen	5128 6 8
One year's <i>@</i> [<i>annual</i>] rent of the fores ^d prin ^{ll} sum .	256 8 4
The Rent of Ferryhill yearly	453 6 8
Annuity payable by B: Jo: Strachan	5 0 0
The sum of the three last articles being ye yearly Rent	714 15 0

Deductions.

To the King's Colledge for Teind	53 6 8
Tew (?) to the Trads Hospital	20 0 0
To the Clerk conform to the Mortification	13 6 8
To the Rector of the Grammar School	400 0 0
To M ^r . James Dun one of ye oy ^r [<i>other</i>] Masters .	133 6 8
	620 0 0

D^r. Pat: Dun was elected Principal of the Marishal

1653³

College in the year 1621 and died in 1649.

¹ This augmentation was made in 1798, v. App. i., and fixes the date of the above addition to the MS. at about 1807. The writing of the final paragraph resembles that of Mr. James Cromar, Rector, 1803-26.

² From Mr. Jas. Cromar's MS. vol., p. 18.

³ This note, with the correction in the date in different ink, but by the same hand as the above Account.

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Ferryhill Feued to

1752. Proprietors.	Ac. R.	Per Acre.	Amount.	Advanced. ¹	Rem. Feu.	1751. Proportion.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
P. Blackwell . . .	8 0	1 2 0	8 16 0	31 0 7½		½
Do.	28 2	0 1 1	1 10 10½			
*Io. Auldjo . . .	21 0	0 12 0	12 12 0			
*W. Simpson . . .	23 0	0 17 0	19 11 0			
Do.	9 0	1 14 6	15 10 6	318 16 8		Payable at ½ part or Stock Martimas 1752.
Do.	25 0	0 15 0	18 15 0			
Dr. Donaldson . .	11 3	1 18 0	22 6 6			
Dr. Donaldson for the Mill			6 13 4			
Io. Elphinston . .	10 0	2 10 0	25 0 0	567 16 9½		One fift part payable Mar- timas 1755 at 24 years purchase.
P. Ptolemy . . .	5 0	1 6 0	6 10 0			
Io. Mair	9 3	2 6 0	22 8 6			
Al. Cushnie . . .	7 3	2 7 0	18 4 3			
Do.	7 3	1 9 0	11 4 9	24 0 0		
Do.	10 2½	1 4 0	12 12 0			
Th. Duncan, Houses and Yards . . .			2 0 0			
Io. Knolls, Houses and Yards . . .			2 0 0			
Al. Smith, Land and Yards . . .			1 2 6	977 15 1¼ 31 0 7½ 946 14 6½ 4 3786 18 2½		
I Strachan, Houses			0 10 0			
*Io. Auldjo, Tiend Silver			0 6 8			
*Wil. Symson, Tiend Silver			1 0 0			

From Mr. James Cromar's MS. vol., p. 22.

SOME ACCOUNTS OF THE GRAMMER SCHOOL AND DR. DUN'S MORTIFICATION FROM THE COUNCIL BOOKS OF ABDⁿ. DR. D. DIED 1649 1653.²

Dr. Dun's writes of Ferryhill received from Dr. Robert Dun and put into the Charter Chest; and the Council ordered the Master of Mort: to receive from him Rothi- 1653. June 15th.

¹ Total, 177 Acres, feued away for £195, 1s. 4½d., or £16, 5s. 1¾d. sterling; forby the Mill, houses, &c. Think of this, O speculative builder!

² The "advanced" money is the "Grassums," see pp. 90, 139.

³ From Mr. James Cromar's MS. vol., pp. 24 ff.

may's Band¹ for a 1000 Merks with a year's Interest together with that year's rent of Ferryhill; and the Mortification to be insert in the Master's Charge with the rest of y^e Mortifications.

Sept. 14. The Council appoints M^r James Sandilands town Clerk to get yearly 20 Merks out of the Mor^t of Ferryhill and to begin this year.

1655.
20 June. M^r T: Chalmers dimitted his office of Master of the Gram: School.

10 July. £200 of the Rents of Ferryhill appointed to be lent the Treasurer upon Bond.

12 Sept. Contract betwixt M^r Al: Strachan and Council; by w^{ch} he gets 300 Merks yearly as Master of the Sch: But in case D^r Dun's Mor^t should take place in his lifetime the Council was to be free of y^e 300 merks.

4th Oct. M^r John Cassie appointed D^r of the G: Sch: for one year and to have £80 Scots from y^e Treas^r

1656.
2nd April. Act declaring the £200 borrowed from the Mor^t to be a publick Debt affecting the Treasury.

16th July. M^r Pat: Strachan elected D^r of the G: S: and to have 150 Merks yearly in consideration he was to supply the place of 2 Doctors, w^{ch} the School was in Use to have.

26th Aug. M^r Al: Reid admitted D^r of y^e Sch: on the same terms as M^r Strachan was.

1658.
5 May. M^r Ja: Lundie admitted 2^d D^r and 50 Merks added to the former £100 to be equally divided betwixt the D^{rs}

29th Decr. M^r Walter Alexander admitted 2^d D^r in place of M^r Lundie, who deserted. 200 Mks. payable to the D^{rs} out of the Treasury.

10th Aug.
1659. M^r Wm. Sanders admitted 2^d D^r wth y^e former Salary one of the D^{rs} having deserted.

12th Sept.
1660. Lent to James Anderson elder at the Shore and Agnes Kempt his Spouse 1000 Merks including £206, formerly resting by them, on their granting a Wedset right on their house in favours of D^r Dun's Mortification.

2nd Jany.
1661. Warrant granted for lending to the Lairds of Orchardston and Auchorthies² upon Band £400 as the preceeding year's Rent of Ferryhill.

1662.
Feb. £200 Scots borrowed by the Collector of the Taxation.

¹ See p. 127, note 3.

² Probably Provost Robert Petrie, *vide* p. 128 and note, and cf. Mr. Munro's *Provosts, &c.*, p. 178.

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Lent to Ja: Anderson¹ at the Shore £100 on his Band to be added to the Reversion of his Tenement of Land before Wadsett to y^e Mort:

M^r. Walter Alexander on account of his great pains in supplying the place of both Dⁿ. appointed to get £100 Salary. 27 Novr.
1661.

£200 appointed to be lent to Walter and Geo: Melvils on Band, bel: to the Mor^t. 14 Jany.
1663.

M^r. Al: Strachan demitted his office of Master of the G: Sch: 18th March
1663.

M^r. John Forbes Professor of Humanity² elected Master of the G: Sch: w^t £200 Salary and a house and yard free, or 100 Mks for renting a house, on the same conditions as M^r. Strachan anent D^r. Dun's Mort: 10 June
1663.

M^r. Jo Barclay admitted D^r. 22nd Decr.

M^r. Jo Findlater admitted D^r. in place of M^r. Jo Barclay w^t the ordinary Stipend and Casualtys. 16 Novr.
1664.

Act in favours of Jas Moir for a new Tack of Ferryhill for two 19 ys w^t £10 Sterling of Grassum.³ 19 July
1667.

The Council ordains the Master of Mortific: to collect and gather together the hail Money belonging to D^r. Dun's Mortification with all convenient Diligence, to the Effect that the same might be settled upon Lands conform to the Mortification, and for the Effect therein contain'd, at Whitsunday next. 14th June
1665.

Upon an application for M^r. Alex^r. Innes son to the Laird of Tibbertie, by Cha: Dun Litster and others friends of the Mortifier that he might be admitted as one of the Dⁿ. in terms of the Mort: The Council after trial did with consent of the friends of the Mor: appoint the Master of Mor^t to pay him £60 Scots from Martimas last to Whitsunday next out of the Moneys belonging to the Mortification. 17 Jany.
1666.

The Council considering that D^r. Duns Mor^t was now accresced and able for the Employment exprest in the Mortification, Therefore to the Effect the Mortifiers will might be fulfill'd and the Mortification take it's beginning 4 July
1666.

¹ See p. 128.

² John Forbes, Professor of Humanitie, Mar. Coll. 1650-55, in the college accounts. The above extract from the Town Council Records gives 8 years later date for his style as such. In the King's Coll. Reg., p. 47, he appears as Professor of Humanity, 30th Sept. 1662. See pp. 82-3, above. He was afterwards Sheriff-Depute of Aberdeen.

³ "A sum of money paid by a tenant to the landlord on entering into possession of his farm." Jamieson, see p. 137, note 3, above.

accordingly at this instant term of Whitsunday ordain'd the Master of Mort. to pay the several Stipends following viz. To M^r. John Forbes Mas^r. £200 for his Service to Martimas next and ilk ane of the two under Masters 100 Merks for their service and ordained the Mortification to be improven and observed in all time coming.

20 March
1667.

M^r. Jo: Forbes Mas^r. of the Gr: School admitted in terms of the Mort: to have 600 Mks of Salary for 5 Years and for his better encouragement the Council eiks thereto £200 to be pay'd by the Treasurer out of the common Good, but this to be no preparative as it was only out of Good will.

M^r. John Findlater and M^r. Pat: Innes admitted two of the Dⁿ at 200 Merks each in terms fors^d in full contentation to ilk ane of them of all they could ask or crave of the s^d place, with the benefit of their own Classes.

4th Decr.
1667.

Warrant for raising a removing ag^t Agnes Kempt Relict to Jas. Anderson against Whitsunday next from her tenement Wadset to the Mortification.

1667.

About this time Lent by the Mas^r of Mortif: 500 Merks to Pitfodels and 1000 Merks to the Lairds of Philorth but from q^t Mortification left blank.

9 June
1669.

M^r. W^m. Skene son to Gil. Skene of Dyce appointed to supply and assist the Doctors during the Principal Mas^r's not admission.¹

23 June.

The Praemiums appointed to be furnished to the Scholars of the Gram: S: on the charges of Dⁿ. Dun's Mortification.²

21st Augt.

M^r. William Skene to get £60 Scots for his services in the Principal Master's absence out of Dⁿ. Dun's Mort.

29 Sept.

An Edict published for the Vacancy of the Principal Master to y^e 1st of March.

13 Octr.

Persons nominate to treat w^t Balie Burnet³ anent his right of reversion of Jas Anderson's house wadset as aforesaid and not exceed 300 Merks.

March
1670.

M^r. Rob: Skene School Master at Banchory chosen Principal Master being the only Competitor M^r. Jo Lyel⁴

¹ See List of Rectors, App. i. John Forbes must therefore have resigned before this date.

² An illegal application of the Fund. Moreover the 4th Master provided for by the will had not yet been appointed; see List of Masters, App. i.

³ Baillie Alex. Burnet of Countesswells (?).

⁴ One of this name in *Reg. Mar. Coll.*, in 2nd Class, 1663.

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a subtenant's Son having petition'd to be preferred w^{out} Contesting in terms of the Mort: was refus'd and did not compete.

Reg^t Contract to M^r. Robert Skene to get 600 Mks May
and the Casualtys &c., and no more for 8 years. 1670.

M^r. Pat: Innes demitted and a Program¹ served ag^t 20 July
1st November. 1670.

M^r. John Alexander Son to M^r. Alexander late town 9 Novr.
Clerk being found best qualified was admitted D^r in place 1670.
of M^r. P: Innes w^t a Salary of 200 Merks &c.²

Annual rent due by the Treasury to the Mortifications From 1670
£2412, 18s. 2d. Scots. to 1671.

Due to the Mortifications @ £2450, os. od.

M^r. Al: Innes demits his charge.

From 1672
to 1673.
1671.

Secured on the Lands of Fingask Wadset by L^d Salton
13000 Merks belonging to the Mortifications.

M^r. R: Alex^r admitted D^r in place of M^r. Al. Innes.

Feb.
1672.
Aug.
1674.

Annual rent reduced by the Parliament so that the
Treasurer pd only £2040 to y^e Mor^t

The Lands of Gilcomston to be purchased for the Aug. 30,
Mortifications. 1676.

The Council considering that D^r. Duns Mortification Decr. 6.
was not able to pay the Master and under Masters their 1676.
Salarys and that the Principal Master³ was dead found
that it would be an good mean that his Place vaick for
some years for the forsd Effect, and appointed one of the 3
Under Masters to have the Principal Charge of the School
and to teach the high Class and his own too and for his
Encouragement to have y^e Schoolages of both Classes,
and the School Casualties: viz. Bent money,⁴ Christmas

¹ Probably a notice of the vacancy, to be affixed to the church door, according to Dr. Dun's will, p. 121.

² The "&c." would be the "casualties," i.e. fees of his class.

³ Robert Skene.

⁴ See Jamieson, Dict., who refers to "Bleeze-money," "Bleyis-silver," with interesting references to the Candlemas "benevolences" exacted by teachers; see also "Candlemas-bleeze" (see pp. 35, 37-9, and 89 for "Christmas candles"). Jamieson conjectures Fr. *benit*, blessed, as the derivation, and blaze or bleeze in connexion with the candles. Possibly it comes from St. Blasius, whose feast was on Feb. 3rd, and vigil on Feb. 2nd, i.e. Candlemas Day. For St. Blaise in Scotland, see Forbes, *Kalendars of Scottish Saints*. Blasius was popular in Norway, where by a similar vulgar etymology his name is associated with *blaese*, to blow. Jamieson's conjecture of "bent" for *benit* fails to explain the passage in Extract from T. C. Reg., ch. ii. p. 38, "item that anis ilk moneth during thir four monethis following in the symmer seasonne allanerly, viz. May, Junij, July, and August, the bairnis that gang not to the bent thame selfis, sall pay ilk ane of thame aucht penneis to the maister for byring of

Candles, and ordained the moneys belonging to the Mortification to be uplifted ag^t Whitsunday next and stocked of new altogether upon Lands or other sufficient Security.

Decr. 18.

M^r. John Finlater one of the Doctors was chosen to supply the place of the Prin^l Master in terms of the foregoing act, only to have half of the casualties.

1677.

Jan'y. 17

The Relict of M^r. Ro: Skene upon her petition got £100 pay'd her by the Treasurer out of the Common good for ease of the Mortification.

1677.

Feb. 21.

Considering that they behoved to perfect the Bargain for the Lands of Gilcomstone &c. with the Laird of Pitfodles ag^t Whitsunday next therefore to effectuate the same, recommends to the Master of Mortf^m to seek in all the readiest moneys, particularly the moneys of S^r Tho: Crombies Mort^a and the moneys liftable of Dr. Dun's Mor:

1677.

June 20.

Agnes Kempt widow of Ja: Anderson and her Daughter to get 400 Merks from the Treasurer upon renouncing all right and title to the house at the Shore belonging to the Mortification, and the Treasurer to be repay'd out of the price of the House, if it earned the Debt due thereon to the Mort^a.

1678.

July 31.

An Act anent £12,000 of Taxation, where the town's Debt is all taken notice of it is said as follows, As also the Burgh was resting of prin^l sum to D^r. Dun's Mort^a £1866, 13s. 4d., which behoved to be pay'd ag^t Whitsunday. For conform to the Mortification there was settled upon Land Ten Thousand Merks thereof, for the use of the under Masters¹ in the Grammar School and that sum an part of the price of the Land as said is.

Augt. 1679.

Nov. 19.

M^r. Jo: Alexander dimitted and M^r. Alex^r. Thomson

bent. See also p. 78. The "bent" is *Arundo arenaria*, &c., cut for weaving mats, &c., and used also for strewing the floor in place of carpets. The custom of sending children to cut the bents survived in Aberdeenshire to within living memory, as the editor is assured by a country farmer. The school children who did not "gang to the bent" would be the sons of the more well-to-do, who were not to escape their contributions, but to pay in money, if not in kind. A similar usage in regard to bringing "a peat" daily to school also prevailed within the memory of many now living. "Haiffing the candle in my hand on a wintar night, before sax hours, in the scholl, sitting in the class, bernlie and neglegentlie pleying with the bent, it kendlet sa on fyre, that we haid all ado to put it out with our feit." Jas. Melville's *Diary*, p. 21, anno 1569.

Kennedy, *Annals*, ii. 125 n., says, "Bent money was a small fee paid for permission to the boys to take their recreation in the links, or at the bents on the sea shore, on one afternoon in the week. Hence the Wednesday afternoon *play*." But the above passage, in which the Master is to have 8d. a head (about $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) each month "for bying of bent," shows clearly that Kennedy's explanation is wrong.

¹ Should be Masters, see p. 131.

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was admitted in his room as ane of y^e Dⁿ w^t 200 Mks. Same Day M^r. Gil: Ramsay was admitted, in place of M^r. Finlater, as a Doctor w^t 200 Merks out of Mort: and M^r. Finlater admitted prin^l Master with 300 Merks yearly out of the Treasury and no more till the Mortification be made up. The same day the Council with consent of the conjunct Patrons resolved and enacted that how soon a vacance happ'ned of any of the Dⁿ of s^d School their places should not be planted untill the Mortification was able and in condition to pay the Salarys allowed thereby to the Prin^l Master and 3 Doctors.

Act ordaining M^r. Finlater's Salary to be augmented to 400 Merks in respect of his great pains and the Mortification being in better condition, 200 Mks whereof out of the common good and 200 Mks out of the Mortⁿ, and that Act to continue till the Mortification was made up. 1681.
Novr. 23.

M^r. Gil: Ramsay dimitted and an edict¹ served ag^t the last of August. 1682.
May 31.

M^r. Troup admitted in room of Gil: Ramsay. 1682.

M^r. Jo. Finlater was allowed the ordinary Salary conform to the Mortification and admitted prin^l Master of the School ad Vitam aut Culpam. 1682.
Augt.
1683.
Octr. 10.

An Act declaring that notwithstanding their entring into Contract w^t M^r. Finlater and obliging them to pay him 600 Merks yearly as the Salary due by the Mortⁿ yet it was verily condescended at making thereof that he should accept of what salary the Mortification was able to afford with what further the Council should bestow on him for his living till the Mortification was made up. And therefore agreed and ordaind that the Mortⁿ should pay 200 Merks yearly and the Treasurer 300 Mks in all 500 which M^r. Finlater thereby accepted of in satisfaction of the s^d Contract. 1684.
Sept. 10.

S^d Day M^r. Al: Thomson dimitted.

M^r. And: Mitchelson Tho: Mitchel Bail: admitted as one of the Under Masters w^t the ordinary salary. 1684.
Decr. 5.

The same Day Mr. Gil: Black son to Gil: Black Bailie² chosen one of the Doctors w^t 200 Merks out of

¹ See note on "Program," above, p. 141.

² There is a fine flavour of nepotism in these and other appointments. The testator's sons, name-kin, and tenants of Ferryhill got short thrift, see sub March, 1670, above. But Duns enough are to follow.

the Treasury from which 3 Bail: and the Trea: dissented.

Jan. 24,
1677.

The buying of the Lands of Gilcomston for the Mortifications to be prosecute at the price of 6000 Merks and the D^m on the Mortifications to be advertised to pay the sums necessary against Whit: next.

Feb. 25,
1677.

The Master of Mortifications to uplift money especially small sums for purchasing the Lands of Gilcomston¹ and particularly from Sir Thomas Crombie's and D^r Dun's Mortifications.

Augt. 22,
1677.

The Master of Mortifications appointed to lend the Dean of Guild 1000 Merks for helping to pay the Lands of Shetocksley for use of the Guild Bretheren.

Sept. 5,
1677.

Warrant to the Treasurer to borrow from the Master of Mortifications 1000 pounds Scots of the money belonging to D^r Dun's Mortification and 1090 pounds of S^r Thomas Crombie's, and to grant Bond accordingly.

May 28,
1679.

The Disposition of the Lands of Gilcomston to be in the Treasurer's name for the Towns behoof.²

The Act runs upon a narrative of the Council's predecessor's having purchased the Lands of Gilcomston for the behoof of certain Mortifications, and appoints the Disposition already executed by Pitfoddels to the Mortifications to be cancelled, and a new disposition of the Lands to be execute in favour [of] the Treasurer, and the Treasurer to give security to the Mortifications for the sums advanced by them.

At this point the narrative may be followed in the "Breif Account," above, p. 127 ff., and in Walter Thom's *History of Aberdeen*, 2 vols., 1811, see *infra*.

SHORT STATE OF WHAT THE LANDS OF FERRY-HILL MIGHT HAVE AMOUNTED TO, IF THEY HAD BEEN PROPERLY MANAGED, DURING THE FOLLOWING PERIODS.³

The interest of money is charged at 6 per Ct. the then legal interest; but no interest is charged for fractional

¹ The price was £17,666, 13s. 4d. Scots or £1472 4s. 5d. str., W. Thom, *Hist. Aberd.*; Act of Council, 31 July, 1678.

² In plain English, having bought these lands 'with others' money, the town's representatives appropriated them to the town.

³ From Mr. Jas. Cromar's MS. vol., p. 36.

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sums—nor is either D^r Cargil's mortification, or D^r Dun's donation of 500 merks included.

		Scots.
1653.	Given in by D ^r P. Dun's executors	£666 13 4
	One year's interest of D ^a also given in	40 0 0
	Half year's Rent of Ferryhill also given	200 0 0
	Amount at Whitsunday 1653 is	906 13 4
	This was all lent out by the Managers	54 8 0
1654.	Interest of the above sum at 6 pr. Ct.	400 0 0
	A year's Rent of Ferryhill	400 0 0
	Amount at Whitsunday 1654 should be	£1361 1 4
	At this term £450 more might have been lent out, and only £4, 8s. left in the Treasurer's hands.	
	Interest of the stocked money	81 8 0
	Rent of Ferryhill for another year	400 0 0
1655.	Amount at Whitsunday 1655 should be	£1842 9 4
	At this term £480 more might have been lent; and £5, 16s. in all in the Treasurer's hands	
	Interest of stocked money	110 4 0
	A year's Rent of Ferryhill	400 0 0
1656.	Amount at Whit ^r 1656 is	£2352 13 4
	At this term £500 more might have been lent, and £16 would have remained in the Treasurer's hands, and the interest of stocked money for one year would be	140 4 0
	Rent of Ferryhill for one year	400 0 0
1657.	Amount at Whitsunday 1657 should be	£2892 17 4
	At this term £533, 6s. 8d. or 800 merks more might have been lent; and the interest of the whole stocked money would be	172 4 0
	Rent of Ferry-hill for one year	400 0 0
1658.	At this term the amount should be	£3464 1 4
	N.B.—In the Treasurer's Hands of this sum £22, 17s. 4d. for last year.	
	At Whits ^d 1658 other £533, 6s. 8d. more or 800 merks Scots might have been lent out and £61, 14s. 8d. remained in the Treasurer's hands, and the whole interest would be	204 4 0
	A year's Rent of Ferry-hill	400 0 0
1659.	Amount at Whit ^r 1659 should be	£4068 5 4
	K	

At this term £600 more might be lent and the balance in the Treasurer's Hands would have been £65, 18s. 8d., and Interest of the whole stocked money would have been .		240	4	0
A year's Rent of Ferry-hill		400	0	0
1660.	Amount at Whits' 1660 should be	£4708	9	4
At this term £700 might have been further lent out; and the balance in the Treasurer's Hands would have been £6, 2s. 8d., and interest of Stock		282	4	0
A year's Rent of Ferry-hill		400	0	0
1661.	Amount at this term	£5390	13	4
At this term 1000 merks or £666, 13s. 4d. more might have been lent out, and the balance in the Treasurer's Hands would have been £21, 13s. 4d., and the next year's interest of the whole stock		322	4	0
A year's Rent of Ferry-hill		400	0	0
1662.	Amount at Whit' 1662 should be	£6112	17	4
At this term 1100 merks or £733, 6s. 8d. more might have been lent out, and the balance in the Treasurer's hands only 10 shillings and 8 pennies Scots. The whole annual interest would now have been		366	4	0
A year's Rent of Ferry-hill		400	0	0
1663.	Amount at Whit' 1663 should be	£6879	1	4
At this term £733, 6s. 8d. or 1100 merks more might have been added; the balance in the Treasurer's hands £33, 8s.				
The interest on the whole stockd money		410	4	0
Rent of Ferry-hill		400	0	0
1664.	Amount is	£7689	5	4
At this term £800 might have been further lent out, and £43, 12s. remaind in the Treasurer's Hands. The whole interest of stocked money would be		458	4	0
Rent of Ferry-hill		400	0	0
1665.	Amount at this Whit' should be	£8547	9	4
At this term £900 more might be lent out, the balance in the Treasurer's Hands would be £1, 16s. only, and the annual interest now		512	4	0
Rent of Ferryhill		400	0	0
1666.	Amount at Whitsund' 1666	£9459	13	4

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At this term the Mortification took effect, but there was in the		
Treasurer's Hands	£2294, 11s. 7d., according to the	
Town's Books, and only of stocked money	.	4703 2 0
Of this sum a good part was lent to Bank-rupt Debtors. In		
the Treasurer's h ^d	.	2294 11 7
Total in the Town's Books only		£6997 13 7
Consequently a loss by mismanagement, besides several		
bankrupt Debts	.	2461 19 9
Add to this Dr. Pat. Cargil's Mortif ^a	.	666 13 4
Dr. Pat. Dun's first donation	.	333 6 8
		£10,459 13 4

GENERAL VIEW OF THE FUNDS BELONGING TO THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN 1666.

They were on the Town's Books.	£6997 13 7
They should have been	£10,459 13 4

This would not only have purchased at that time lands which would have yielded £400 of free yearly Rent; but in the way lands sold then would have purchased lands worth £600 yearly.

. . . "It evidently appears from the whole of the above statement, that Dr. Dun's intentions had not been fulfilled by the magistrates, and that his mortification had been improperly applied. When the lands of Gilcomston were purchased by Dr. Dun's money, and the disposition taken in the name of the master of mortifications, these lands became the property of the doctors of the school, in terms of Dr. Dun's deed of settlement, and were therefore inalienable. It was highly improper, if not unwarrantable, to assign the lands of Gilcomston to the treasurer of the town, and thus to constitute the mortification only a personal debt against the corporation. It was a direct infringement of the deed, and it also deprived the masters of any advantage of the rise of landed property.

"The arbiters seem to have established a new rule for the application of the funds, and to have taken no notice of the unfair transference of Gilcomston, the increased

value of which, since the year 1679, ought to have been stated in opposition to the magistrates' claims for advances, which were partly made previously to the existence of the mortification.

"As a corporation never dies, and Dr. Dun's settlement still remains in full force, the masters of the grammar school, in justice, and probably, in law, may claim the lands of Gilcomston as a matter of right. At any rate there can be no doubt that they are entitled to the full proceeds of the funds without deduction, as the deed expressly declares the mortification to be for the maintenance of the four masters.

.

"In so far, the magistrates acted according to the conditions of Dr. Dun's settlement; that is to say, they invested 10,000 merks in land, to which the master of mortifications obtained a disposition from the seller; and the doctors of the grammar school became virtually annuitants of a corresponding proportion of the lands of Gilcomston, which were the property purchased; and they could not legally or in justice be deprived of their right. The transference of their part of the lands to the town treasurer, which took place in 1679, was therefore an infringement of the conditions of Dr. Dun's mortification, and a direct breach of a deed properly constituted by a royal charter of confirmation and all the formalities of law.

"The decret-arbitral pronounced by Messrs. Turner, the sheriff-clerk, and Thomson, the town's consultor,¹ is completely ridiculous, and also a violation of the deed of settlement, because they establish a mode of disposing of the fund altogether unauthorised. They were bound by the terms of the deed, and no other; but there is not a word in it that implies any application different from the maintenance of the four masters. The mortification was intended, and it is sufficiently declared to be, salaries to the teachers, no part of which could be expended in 'building a convenient school-house,' or to any other purpose, than merely to maintain the four masters, who are strictly prohibited from taking higher fees than 'thret-

¹ See p. 134.

teine schillings four pennies, Scots money,' quarterly, from each scholar, 'unless he be the son of a marquis, earl, viscount, lord, or baron.'

"If this mortification had been managed in a proper manner, or rather if it had not been grossly abused, the salaries of the teachers might have amounted to something so very considerable, perhaps, to several hundred pounds to each, that the means of education would have been accessible to the lower classes of the town and neighbourhood of Aberdeen. But it is expressly declared, that 'whatsomever scholar, comeing to the grammar-school, and bringing with him ane testimonial, subscribed be honest and famous men, declaring his povertie, or the povertie of his parents, shall be taught gratis.' Those of the name of Dun are also entitled to be taught gratis, 'whatsomever rank or condition they be'; and likewise the 'whole tennents sones of the saids lands of Ferriehill, and hail remanent lands to be conquest for the use foresaid, to be taught gratis perpetuallie in all tyme comeing.'

"The mismanagement of Dr. Dun's mortification, therefore, has not only affected the interest of the four masters, but it has deeply injured that of thousands, who might have attended this seminary in virtue of the charitable intentions of the donor. The diffusion of education among the lower ranks of society is of the greatest national importance. The enlargement of knowledge, and the consequent expansion of intellect, will ever make men wiser and better.

"The injury sustained by the public, and particularly by the citizens of Aberdeen, from the mismanagement of Dr. Dun's mortification, is sufficiently apparent; and the turpitude of the crime cannot be palliated by any plea of ignorance, as, independently of the strict and explicit terms of the deed, the moral obligation to do justice, both to the masters and to the public, ought to have dictated better sentiments. The disgrace attachable to those who abused this valuable institution, should be a beacon to warn the present, and all future managers of donations from the danger that accompanies their misapplication,

which will certainly be attended by the severest reprehension—the loss of character—and every thing that a good man may deem valuable.”

Extract from W. Thom's History, see p. 126, above.

13. *The Paterson Bursary, 1762.*

John Paterson, London, by his last will and testament bequeathed *inter alia* to the Principall £400 annuities to maintain a bursar,¹ and augment the salary of the Professor of Medicine, 6th August, 1762.

“In the name of God Amen I John Paterson of Pancras Lane London Gentleman do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner following . . . I hereby give and bequeath to the Principall of the Marischall Colledge in Aberdeen commonly called the Newtown in North Britain £300 East India Annuities the interest thereof to be paid by him from time to time to such scholars at the Grammar School in Aberdeen aforesaid as the Principall shall think proper for the four last years² they shall be at the said School subject nevertheless to the proviso after mentioned And I likewise give and bequeath to the said Principall £300 three per cent. Bank Annuities and do direct the interest thereof shall be paid by him from time to time to any of the said two scholars³ who shall happen to be a Burser in the said Colledge and if both of them shall happen to be Bursers then to such of them as the said Principall shall think proper for the space of four years next after he shall be made a Burser Provided always and my will and meaning is I do hereby direct and order that my relations by my father's and mother's side shall be preferred by such Principall before all other scholars in the said Colledge and in default of any such relations then I direct that those scholars of the name of Paterson shall be preferred

¹ But *vide* note 2, below.

² The evident object of the testator, to help boys on to the College, is generally defeated by the appointment of boys, sons of hammermen, so young, that they cannot now possibly complete the school course in four years.

³ In this copy there is no previous mention of *two* scholars.

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by such Principall and in default of any scholars of the name of Paterson then I will and direct that the sons of Hammermen Burgesses in the Town of Aberdeen shall be preferred by such Principall before all other scholars in the said School. Also I give and bequeath to the Principal of said School [*sic*] of Aberdeen aforesaid £100 East India Annuities and do order that the intrest thereof shall from time to time be paid by him to the Professor of Medicine for the time being in the said Colledge." . . .

Rec. Mar. Coll., i. 433-4.

"Owing to accumulations the amount now payable to the College bursar is £14 (Cal. 1889-90). . . . Alexander Paterson, shoemaker, claimed the bursary as of right for his son Joseph, who had not obtained a place among the bursars of 1793. This claim the Principal resisted, preferring Charles Blake, whose version was first in order of merit."

Id. 434 n.

WILLIAM PATERSON, parochial schoolmaster of Nigg, by will of 7th Feb. 1827, left £80 sterling to augment the bursary founded by John Paterson.

Id. 495.

14. *The MacRa Mortification.*

By will, dated 8th Nov. 1763, Alexander MacRa, Ironmonger in Bristol, a native of Inverinnet, in Glenelg, near Stromeferry, left his property to a number of Trustees to be applied for the benefit of his kinsfolk, and for "the decent Cloathing, Maintenance, Education, and Instruction of as many indigent Boys or male children of the surname of MACRA and all natives of Scotland, as the said neat yearly produce [of 20,000 pounds Scots] can sufficiently support." Then follow minute directions for the selection and examination of candidates, with preference to "Descendants in the male line of the deceast Alexander Macra of Inverinet the Donors Great Grandfather." . . . Every boy who showed himself "acute for Letters," was at the age of thirteen to be examined by the Professor of

Divinity of King's College, and the senior Minister of Aberdeen, and, if found proficient, was "to enjoy the benefit of my Donation at proper schools within the Burgh of Aberdeen, until he be fit for the Humanity Class or School in the said King's College in Aberdon, commonly called the old Town of Aberdeen, and for as long time thereafter at the said King's College as is usually allowed there, for being instructed in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, Mathematics, Philosophy and Divinity, if he so inclines."

On the 17th Nov. 1888, by an Order of the Queen in Council, amended 11th Dec. 1902, this bequest, among others, was merged in the general funds of the Aberdeen Educational Trust, and provision made that the Trust should provide 3 bursaries annually of £20 a year, tenable for 5 years, at the Grammar School, the candidates to be boys whose "parents or guardians require aid in providing them with higher education." . . . "Two of these bursaries shall be known by the name of the MacRa bursaries, and these two bursaries shall be awarded to any candidates, properly qualified in the opinion of the governors to avail themselves of the education given at the Grammar School of Aberdeen, who shall satisfy the governors that they are of the lineal descendants of Alexander MacRa of Inverinet," as above. Two bursaries of £20 a year each tenable for two years were also to be awarded by competition to scholars attending the Grammar School, who require aid in completing their education, the period and examination to be so fixed "that the successful competitors may be expected to complete the curriculum of the school during that time."

15. *The Lorimer Bursaries, 1764.*

Founded by Dr. William Lorimer, son of William Lorimer of Dytach, of the Parish of St. James's, Westminster, in a Mortification signed and attested at Gravesend, Dec. 6th, 1764, whereby he left £200 sterling, the interest of which sum was to benefit his own kin in

the parish of Cullen, where he was educated as a Bursar on his grand-uncle's Mortification. The copy of the original will covers nearly eight closely written folio pages in the minutes of the Kirk Session of Cullen, 1741-1765. For the text of it, see *Rec. Mar. Coll.* i. 434 ff. The purpose of the original will is more succinctly set forth in *Ordinance* No. 41 of the University Commissioners.

[Aberdeen, No. 21; Regulations for DR. WILLIAM LORIMER'S FOUNDATION. At Edinburgh the 11th April, 1862, . . . "Whereas by deed of Mortification . . . Dr. William Lorimer . . . mortified the sum of £200 for the maintenance and education of a boy for one year at the High School of Aberdeen and four years at the Marischal College of Aberdeen successively and he ordained that the said boy should be of the relations of his father and mother each alternate five years and he further provided that the lapsed burse money in case of vacancies should be accumulated that in time in possible two bursaries might be formed . . . in the manner and subject to the conditions in the said deed more particularly set forth: And whereas since the date of the said deed the value of the property . . . has increased and there are now two bursaries on the foundation: And whereas difficulties are now experienced in obtaining candidates who are qualified in terms of the deed and it appears to the Commissioners that the interests of religion and learning and the main design of the donor would be better advanced by an alteration of the conditions and directions affecting the said mortification . . . the Commissioners statue and ordain as follows:

I. On the occurrence of any vacancy in either of the said bursaries, if there be no candidate qualified by relationship in terms of the said deed it shall be lawful to appoint a boy to the vacant bursary though not so qualified.

II. The patronage . . . shall for the future be vested in the Moderator and Kirk Session of the parish of Cullen.

III. Each bursar shall after attending for one year at the High School of Aberdeen be entitled to hold his bursary at the University for four years as a student in Arts and no longer, subject to the condition that he shall

pass such entrance examination as may for the time be required of presentation bursars . . . and shall pass all examinations required by the University of students proceeding to the degree of Master of Arts" . . . failing which or discontinuing his attendance he shall forfeit his bursary. . . .

IV. "The annual payment to be made to each bursar . . . shall be sixteen pounds: and the surplus in each year of the income of the foundation including therein any unappropriated income arising from any vacancy in either of the said bursaries shall be paid into and form part of the Common Bursary Fund of the University."¹

V. These new regulations not to affect the interests of any bursar now on the said foundation of the University. . . .

JOHN INGLIS, *Chairman*.

"Approved by Order in Council dated 20th March 1863."

16. *The WILLIAMSON BOUNTY for the Es'tablishment of Two Scholarships in the Aberdeen Grammar School, to be called "the Williamson Scholarships."*

5th March, 1866.

"WHICH DAY the Lord Provost intimated that the late George Williamson, Esquire, senior, formerly of Golloghat, Assam, a member of the widely known and highly esteemed families formerly of St. John's Wells and Crichton, in this County, had, by his will, dated 23rd January, 1865, and recorded in the Sheriff Court Books of Aberdeenshire, 24th June, 1865, bequeathed to the Provost of Aberdeen, for Charitable and Educational purposes of the Town, One thousand pounds, which Legacy had on the 28th ultimo, been paid to him, the Lord Provost, with £47, 9s. 4d. of interest, from 22nd February, 1865, and which benefaction he had appropriated as follows, viz. :—1. To the Treasurer of Aberdeen the sum of £500, for which he handed to him an order on the North of Scotland Bank, in presence of the meeting, conditioning that its contents be invested in the hands of

¹ A regulation unfair to the direct interests both of Cullen and of the Grammar School.

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the Town of Aberdeen, or such other good and sufficient security as the Magistrates and Council may from time to time direct : That an account shall be opened and kept in the Town's Books for the same, under the title of 'the Williamson Bounty,' and that the accruing interest shall be applied to the extent of £20 per annum, or so far as it will go, if under that amount, for the establishment of two Scholarships in the Aberdeen Grammar School, to be called 'The Williamson Scholarships,' one to be competed for yearly, in the Third Class, by pupils of not less than a full year's standing, and to be held during their attendance on the Fourth and Fifth Classes—the Competition to be such as may from time to time be fixed by the Patrons of the School, with the advice of the Rector ;¹ any balance of Revenue with the lapsed or relinquished Scholarships to be annually accumulated with interest on the said account, till reaching such an amount as may seem to the patrons to render an appropriation of the Revenue thereof for the increase of the number or value of the Scholarships proper ; it being a suggestion accompanying the establishment of these Scholarships, that when they are gained by members of families who have sufficient means to continue Education, they may, in the exercise of a generous discretion, waive their right either by relinquishing the Scholarship in favour of the young man next in the order of merit, in less easy circumstances, or as an addition to the fund above mentioned." . . .

Excerpt, Council Reg., vol. 85, p. 220.

17. *Bequest by the late John Ramsay,² M.A., for founding a Gold Medal in the Aberdeen Grammar School.*

18th March, 1869, and subsequent dates.

. . . "I bequeath the sum of One hundred pounds sterling, for the founding of a Gold Medal, to be awarded to that Scholar in the fourth or fifth Class of the Aberdeen Grammar School, who shall excel in translation of English into Latin—the Masters in the School and Humanity

¹ This proviso has recently been set aside.

² See his articles reprinted in chaps. xi, xii.

Professor, and the Professors of Divinity, to be the Judges, the fund to be managed by the Town Council, the medal to be called 'The Smith Medal.'"

Sum actually received, £92, os. 11d.

Exc. Council Reg., vol. 88, p. 1 (2nd Jan. 1871).

[It was not till 1899, 30 years after the bequest, that the fund was declared sufficient for the purpose, and the Medal first awarded.]

BURSARIES

In connection with the Grammar School.

[1870.]

Name.	Date of Foundation.	Annual Value.	Time of Tenure.	Number.	Total Annual Value.	Patrons.
Drum . . .	1629	£20	4 years	8	£160	Irvine of Drum.
Robertson . .	1644	5	4 "	1	5	Town Council.
Rolland . . .	1659	7	5 "	5	35	" "
" . . .	"	3	5 "	10	30	" "
Cruickshank *	1746	5	5 "	2	16*	" "
Paterson . . .	1762	7	4 "	2	14	Principal of University.
Lorimer . . .	1764	16	1 "	2	32	Kirk-Session of Cullen.
Williamson . .	1866	10	2 "	2	20	Open to competition at end of 3rd year.
				32	£312	

* An Apprentice Fee of £20 and £10 alternately is paid to the Cruickshank Bursars after 5 years' attendance at School.

(From the Prospectus, 1870-71.)

In 1864-5, the first Prospectus to record the above Bursaries, the Drum Bursaries are given as 4 of £6, 13s. 4d. for 4 years; repeated to 1868-9, when they are returned as 12 of £10, 13s. 4d., for 4 years; and in 1869 as above. At present there are 8 of them, at £15, for 4 years. See p. 112, above.

By Provisional Order, 1878, revised 1881, the Rolland and Cruickshank Bursaries and Williamson Scholarships are now merged in one fund and known as Town Council Scholarships. Information as to these is given in the School's current Prospectus.

CHAPTER V

THE ARCHERY MEDALS

IF we except Ferguson's bell, presented to the School in 1627, and some fragmentary records in two old registers, our School possesses no original relics of its past history more ancient, or, of its kind, more interesting than the Silver Arrow and fourteen Medals displayed in the Hall. The character of the School as a seminary of learning in yet earlier times is eloquently attested by the quaint Latin rules drawn up in 1553 for its management and course of study by John Vaus, first "Humanist" or Professor of Latin when King's College was founded.¹ A copy of these rules is also to be found in the Hall, along with the rules drawn up in 1700 by the Town Council. Ignorant critics sometimes speak of our present interest in sports as an innovation. The Medals, as well as the rules of 1700, are evidence that it is rather a revival of a necessary and still much neglected part of education. The need of training our youth up to the first and chief duty of a State, self-defence, was early realised in Scotland, as elsewhere. Repeatedly laws were enacted that all "yemen [yeomen] of the realme betuixt xvj. and sexty yeris sal be sufficiandly bowit and scheffit" [provided with bow and sheaf or quiver], anno 1425; and again, in 1457, "It is decretyt and ordanyt that wapinschawingis be haldin, . . . and that the fut ball and the golf be utterly criyt doune and not usit . . . and schuting be usyt ilk Sunday, and that ilk man schut sex schottis at the lest, . . . and this to be usyt fra pasche [Easter] till alhallomess [Nov. 1st], and that ilk man within that parochin that is within fyfte and passit xij. yeris sall use schuting. . . ." In 1471 football and golf are again forbidden, and similar legislation occurs in 1491 and 1535. After the Restoration these public contests, suppressed under the Puritans, were again revived

¹ But see p. 108, note.

by order of Government. Those who have read Scott's "Old Mortality" will recall the admirable description in the opening chapters of such a wappenschaw in 1679. It is interesting to note that this date falls midway in the period covered by our own Medals—1664–1699. In spite of Dalgetty's surprise at being wounded by an arrow, archers were not seldom employed in the Civil War. The ill-fated Lord Kilpont commanded the bowmen on Montrose's left at Tippermuir. Archery was employed in the '45, and even as late as the battle of Leipzig, 1813, by Russian troops. But long ere then the use of this primitive "artillery," as it is quaintly called in the Bible, had yielded to firearms; and perhaps the change of weapon had something to do with the decay of this good old practice in our own School—though history tells us of "Grammar boys" who, as early as 1604, took the School from the masters, and held it with swords, guns, and "hagbits"—a "barring-out" which finds its counterpart in the records of Edinburgh High School, with the most grievous results to a Baillie who attempted to storm the stronghold.

Our Medals have been more than once described. The fullest account of them, handsomely illustrated, was given by Mr. Alex. J. S. Brook, F.S.A. (Scot.), in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 1893–94 (pp. 444–469), in which the question, raised in 1891, as to our title to consider them a genuine School relic, and not the possession of Marischal College, has been finally set at rest. In point of fact a register is extant, proving that the Arrow and Medals were a School possession *before the series was completed*. Each Rector on taking office had to sign a receipt for this property, witnessed by two of the town's Baillies, and these receipts occur in the volume in question, by Mr. Findlater, Rector, 1679; Mr. John Milne, who succeeded him in 1717; and Mr. James Dun (Dr. Dun), Rector from 1744 to 1798. No complete register of boys at the School exists for the XVII. Century; and as the names of seven of the fourteen inscribed on the Medals occur in the Marischal College registers as having entered College in the years in which each gifted his Medal, it was

argued, with some degree of plausibility, that the Medals were not ours. They could prove that these lads were in that year at Marischal College: we could not prove that they were then, or at any time, at the Grammar School. This claim, however, broke down, when it was pointed out that though our registers do not cover all the period, the name of Theodore Morison of Bognie, the last winner of the contest, in 1699, does occur in the self-same register above-mentioned, in which it is stated that he gifted Cornelius Tacitus, in October, 1699, no doubt at his "going to the Colledge," the custom then being for boys on leaving school to make the library a present of books or 14p. (a merk) for the purchase of books—another good old custom, unhappily obsolete.

There can therefore no longer be any reasonable doubt that our claim to this heirloom of the School is not only based on "nine points of the law," but has an incontestable proof to establish the tenth point also—a well-founded and continuous record of possession—proof that the Medals were held for the School as early as 1679, and that in 1699 the last winner was a "Grammar boy" at the date of his Medal. I will not go the length of saying that there was no such thing as "pot-hunting" in those days; but a commendable feature in these contests was that the winner did not receive a Medal—he was only too proud to give one, bearing his arms, initials, or motto, to be attached by a chain to the Arrow, probably to a ring passing through the hole in the shaft. Medals and Arrow are of silver, but neither in purity of metal nor in design and workmanship do they reflect credit on the silversmiths of Aberdeen who made them. In common with all Scottish silverwork at the time, the metal was seriously alloyed, 1 oz. in the lb. of 12 oz. being the maximum of alloy permitted by law. Our Medals are debased on the average as much as 2 oz. 4dwt. 12 gs. The names of the winners and the date of contest are inscribed on the Medals, or inferred on other grounds, and are as follows:—

- (1) George Mackenzie, 1664. Note the stag's head, the famous "Caberfae" of the Kintail and Tarbat Mackenzies.

- (2) Thomas Fraser, 1665; bears the cognisance of the Frasers, three "fraises."
- (3) John Bannerman, 1666. The arms resemble those of the Bannermans of Elrick, but have not been fully identified.
- (4) Andrew Skene, 1667; probably a son of Andrew Skene of Ruthrieston, and of Pitmuxton, and Dean of Guild in 1667.
- (5) Adam Gordon, 1670, with the usual arms of the Gordons, "three boars' heads erased" [torn off, with jagged edges], and the famous family motto, *Bydand*. This was doubtless Adam Gordon of Glenbucket, entered as a student at Marischal College in 1670.
- (6) John Gordon of "Breachly," 1672; also mentioned in the University records for that year, but otherwise not identified with any known Gordon of Brachlie.
- (7) James Moir, 1673, *septimo vicit* (which shows that there was a real gap in the contests in 1668, 1669). This was the second Moir of Stoneywood, born in 1659, M.P. for the county for 15 years, and one of the Commissioners on the Union effected in 1707; died 1739. At the date of the contest he was therefore 14 years old, no unusual age to enter the University, then and right into the middle of the past century.
- (8) John Skene, 1674, identified with John Skene, fourth son of James Skene of Newtyle; born 1658. His father was "ane excellent poet in the Scottish language."
- (9) Walter, Lord Deskford, 1675. The Medal bears the arms of the Earl of Findlater. The donor was eldest son of the third Earl, and died some time before 1698.
- (10) John Udney of Udney, 1676. The obverse represents Orpheus—in Roman dress—charming the beasts; the reverse bears the Udney arms, with two picturesque savages as "supporters," and the motto "AL MY HOP IS IN GOD," with the donor's name and date. This is the most artistic of the Medals. This John Udney was M.P. for the



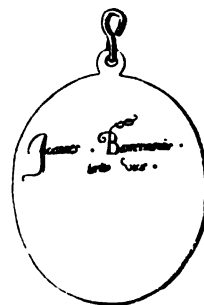
THE SILVER ARROW: 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES



GEORGE MACKENZIE, 1664



THOMAS FRASER, 1665



JOHN BANNERMAN, 1666

Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear

4



ANDREW SKENE, 1667

5



ADAM GORDON, 1670

6



JOHN GORDON OF BREACHLY, 1672

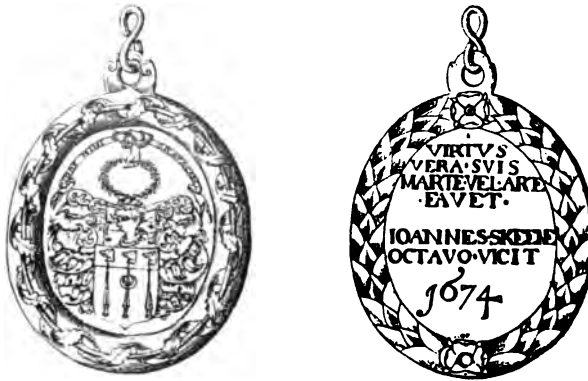
Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear

7



JAMES MOIR OF STONEYWOOD, 1673

8



JOHN SKENE OF NEWTYLE, 1674

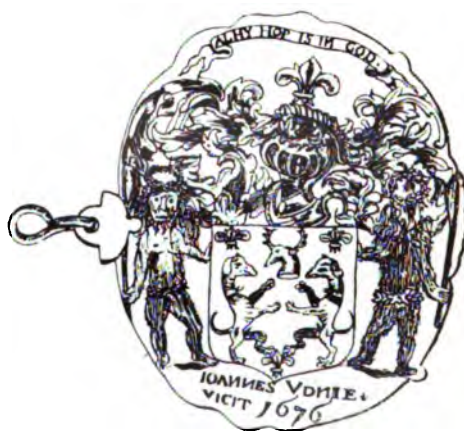
Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear

9



WALTER, LORD DESKFORD, 1675

10



JOHN UDNY OF UDNY, 1676

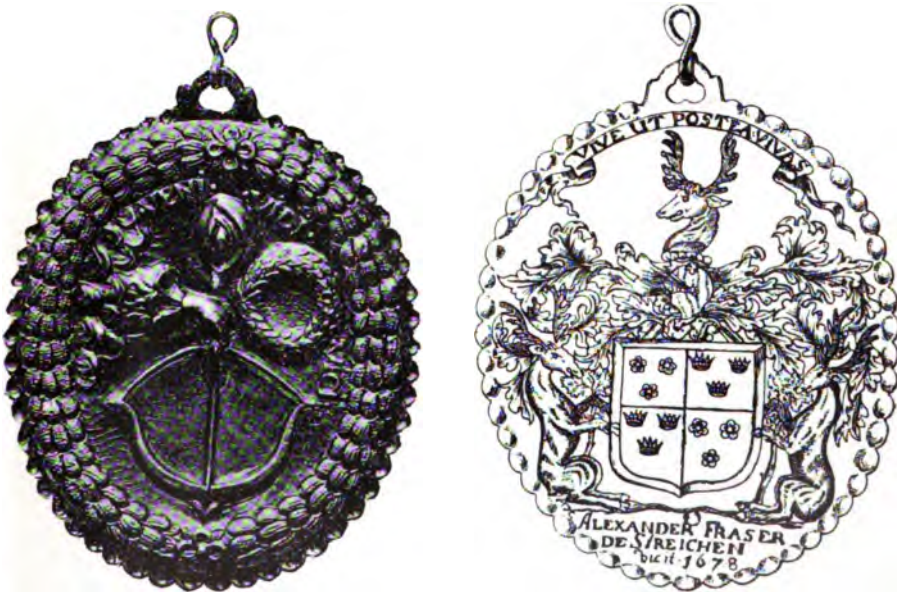
Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear

11



WILLIAM KEITH, 9TH EARL MARISCHAL, 1677

12



ALEXANDER FRASER OF STRICHEN, 1678

Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear



SIR JOHN OGILVY OF INVERQUHARITY (3RD BART.), 1679



THEODORE MORRISON OF BOGNIE, 1699

Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear

county from 1703-1706. In 1701 he married Lady Martha Gordon, daughter of George, first Earl of Aberdeen, and High Chancellor of Scotland.

- (11) William Keith, Earl Marischal, 1677. This was the ninth Earl, succeeded to the title in 1694, and died in 1712, age about 52. Like others of his family, to their grievous cost, he was a strong Jacobite and anti-Unionist, described by a contemporary as "very wild, inconstant, and passionate; . . . a hard drinker, a thin body, a middle stature, ambitious of popularity."
- (12) Alexander Fraser of "Streichen," 1678; eldest son of Thomas Fraser, fourth of Strichen.
- (13) Sir John Ogilvy of Inverquharity, 1679; the third baronet; came of a distinguished family of Forfarshire Royalists.
- (14) Theodore Morison of Bognie, 1699, son of George Morison of Bognie and the Viscountess Fren-draught, "vicit 1699 anno ætatis 14mo." He died in 1766. The notice of his death in the *Aberdeen Journal* of the period is worth recording as a delightful specimen of journalistic bathos—"He lived without an enemy, and died *without a groan*."¹

It is of interest to note on the whole series that the donors all came of noble or "county" families. Was it that the town's bairns were too poor to compete, or too inexperienced to win? Possibly the gap between 1679 and 1699 may have been filled with their names. But this is mere conjecture. No doubt the wapinschaws took place then, as now, on the Links, still our city's principal play-field, though much encroached on. A handier space for Grammar boys was on the open slopes of the old School Hill, now so hideously marred by the buildings which face Union Terrace. Hither in later times they were

¹ For the description of the Medals and historical notes on the Medallists the writer is indebted chiefly to the article by Mr. Brook above-mentioned. See further, App. iv. for the heraldic bearings, mottoes, and inscriptions.

accompanied by the "Hebdomadar," or usher in charge for the week, whose duty it was to supervise them at their play. Such was the law laid down by a wise Town Council in 1700.¹

H. F. M. S.

Magazine, February 1901.

¹ Similar regulations for students occur in the early statutes of Aberdeen University.

CHAPTER VI

LAWS OF 1700

*Laws and Maner of Teacheing
to be observed in
the Grammar-School of Aberdeen
homologat in Counsell
23 Octor 1700.*

THE said day, the Provost, Baillies, and Counsell of the said Burgh takeing to ther serious consideratione, that ther have been no fixt rules set down and enjoyned this long tym bygone, for regulateing the Grammar School of this Burgh, And the saids Provost, Baillies, and Counsell, haveing taken advice of the Ministers of this Burgh, Principall and Regents of the Colledge Marischall of the said Burgh theranent, The following Rules and Overtures were agried upon, And the same being this day read in Counsell, and seriously considered and pondered, wer by the said Counsell ratified and approven, and the same appoynted punctually to be observed be the masters and scholars of the said school, in tyme comeing, of which rules the tenor followes, viz. :—

Firstly, That there be one Solemne Visitatione of the Grammar School in the begineing of October yeirly, at which the severall classes are to be tryed and examined by makeing of Themis, interpretatione of authors, and analyzing the same, makeing of verses, &c. At which visitatione allenarly, præmiums are to be given to the most deserveing and best qualified Scholars; and the names of those who gains the præmiums at each visitatione yeirly, are to be insert in the said School Register of Laws, and upon what poynt of tryall each scholar gains his præmium. As also, that beside the forsaid Solemne visitatione yeirly in October, Ther be three other visita-

tions of the said school, by such of the Counsell as they shall appoynt, and by any two of the ministers of this Brugh, and any two of the masters of the said Marischall Colledge whom the Counsell shall name; and that the first of the saids three visitations shall be yeirly, upon the first Thursday of Februarie. The second upon the first Thursday of May, and the third y'of upon the first Thursday of August, in all tyme comeing; and that beside the saids four yeirly visitations, two or more of the Magistrats and Counsell of the said Brugh visite the said schooll the first Tuesday of every month, and enquir how the laws and rules of the school and discipline therof are observed.

Secondlie, They appoynted the method of teaching the Grammar and Classick authors to be diligently observed in maner following :—

Imprimis, The entrants to be kept reading Latin the first quarter or longer, as shall seem good to the masters.

Item, After reading they are to learn the declinations, comparisons, pronouns, conjugations, with the rest of the Rudiments to the constructions. As also, they are to have the first four sections of Wedderburn's Vocables,¹ not only to get by heart, but to decline and conjugat the same conform to ther progress.

Item, With the constructions they are to have the two last sections of the saids Vocables, Dicta Sapientum and Rudimenta Pietatis.

Item, With the first pairt of the Grammar, they are to have Lilly Sulpitius, Disticha Catonis, Ovid's Epistles, Virgil's Epigrams, Moretum, Terentij Andrea; and for prose authors, Corderius, Minora Erasmi Colloquia, Lodavici Vivis Dialogi, Minores Ciceronis Epistolæ; and for sacred pense, Ursius Catechism, Dialogi Sacri Sebastiani.

Item, With the second part of the grammar, Virgill's Eclogs, Ovid's Metamorphosis, Virgill's fourth book of Georgeicks; and for prose authors, Curtius, Salust, Cæsar's Commentares; and for sacred pense, Buchannan's Paraphrase one the Psalms.

¹ See p. 65.

Item, With the third part of the Grammar, Virgill's second and sixth Æneods, Horas Ods; and for prose authors, Cicero's Offices, Colloquia Erasmi Majora, Sueton; and for sacred pense, Buchanan's Paraphrase continued.

Item, With the fourth pairt of the Grammar, some of the select Satyres and Epistles of Horas, the tenth and thirteenth Satyres of Juvenall, some of Persius' Satyres; and for prose, Florus, Livius first Decad, and Buchanan's Chronicle, together with the turneing and makeing of vers, dictats of Rhetorick, and rules of Elegancie; to which is to be added, some practice in composeing and resolving orations conform to the rules of Rhetorick.

Item, After Dispaute's Grammar is taught, that Kirkwood's Thographie and Syntax be learned, with his Tractat de Variis Carminum Generibus.

Item, From Vivis Dialogs¹ all allong throw the rest of the prose authors, the choicest sentances of each daye's lessons be dictat in Latine and English, together with the versions of each daye's lesson; and for each lesson thoroughout the severall factions,² there be a dayly conference appoynted.

Item, As to composition of Themis, the publick argument be dictat three tymes in the week, and besids these, the high class to have fyve arguments more.

Item, That on Saturday's foirnoon, there be Disputs repeating of rules and authors, publickly, out of the severall classes by course; and once a-week all the rules and questions of the Shorter Catechism are to be repeated publickly.

Item, In the winter quarter each scholar (of the higher class)³ repeat a fable of Æsop, from the publick dask,⁴ before the whole school.

Thirddie, That the Masters and Doctors of the Grammar School shall give due attendance the tyme of Crismas, at the usuall hours every day, and shall suffer none of ther scholars to withdraw att that tym; unless such whose parents and friends shall desyre it of the master. And that if any scholar shall at his own hand

¹ Ludovici Vivis Dialogi, see p. 164.

² The words in brackets not found in the Rector's copy.

³ See p. 172.

⁴ See p. 172.

absent himself without leave asked and given, the master shall not receive him again into his schooll without punishment conform to the discipline of the schooll, in the case of absents, of whom he is to give account at the visitation every first Thursday of Februarie thereafter.

Fourthlie, That the Hebdomader be present dayly in the school at seven a cloack in the morneing, both in winter and summer tyme; except betwixt Hallowmass and Candlemass, when the scholars are only to conveen at nyne in the morneing.

Fifthly, That upon every play-day, the Hebdomader for that week, shall goe allong with the scholars to the hill, when they get the play, and shall be careful that ther be no disorders nor abuses amongst them, and bring them back to the schooll at reigning of the bell.

Sixthly, That the Hebdomader shall, every Sabbath day, sitt in the little dask befor the loft door of the Church, to notice that noe scholar goe out of the Church without his leave.

Seventhlie, That the disciplin of the School be observed as follows :—

Imprimis, That public prayers be said every morneing and every evening.¹

Item, On the Sabbath day, after prayer being said at the second bell, that the questions of the Shorter Catechism be examined in the severall classes and in the afternoon from the second bell to the third bell, the high class to give an account of the catechism, with the scripturall proofs, together with the exposition of a chapter of the Latine New Testament And after sermon, that they conveen (prayer being said) and give account of ther notes, and shutting up all with prayer, be dismissed.

Item, That in making of them and Disputes, each have his adversary for stirring up æmulation.

Item, That ther be chosen out of the high class, whom the masters judg most fitt for their observance and faithfulness, so many as may have inspectione of the rest of the schooll under the masters, called Decurios, of whom each hath six committed to his charge, who take ane account if they have prayed and read a portione of

¹ This paragraph has been omitted in the MS. copy supplied to the Rector (in 1700).

Scripture, of which they are to give a vers As also to notice that ther hands be washen, ther head combed, and ther cloaths neatt, and to take ane account of two questions of the Shorter Catechisme each day. And at ten a cloack the Decurios to give up ther lists of such as are faultie, together with the absents of the morneing and preceeding day As also censors of such as speak English prophain talk, or swearing throughout the severall factions be taken account of.

Item, In tyme of prayer that each Decurio go to the factione under his inspectione.

Item, That on each Monday the perturbers of and absents from the Church be called to ane severe account.

Item, That on each Saturday the publick tables be exacted.

Eighthlie, That the master pitch upon some fitt persone to be Janitor who is to officiat instead of the publict Censor, and doe all other dutyes incumbent on a Janitor, and have for his pains from each scholar twelve pennies Scots money quarterly.

Nynthlie, That the first three lafull days of Januarie be allowed to the scholars for play-days, instead of the Yooll Vacance, and so furth quarterlie through the whole yeir.

Tenthlie, That in absence of the principall master, any of the other masters present may exercise School Discipline upon any of the scholars offending.

Eleventhlie, That the master shall use his endeavours to cause all the scholars repair to the school each Sabbath day after the afternoons sermon, and give ane account what they have heard that day and in what churches And the visitors at ther quarterly visitations, are strictly to inquyre into the observance of this.

Twelfthly, If parents complain on the master for correcting of ther children, the master shall not be called befor the latron¹ on that account, till that the quarterly visitors have examined the whole mater privatly and heard both partyes and taken informatione and report if need bees and if any parent be found to complain

¹ Jamieson, Sc. Dict., Supplement, "*Latrone, latroun* . . . corr. of *Lectrone*, q.v.," but he does not give the word *Lectrone*. Doubtless it is the *lectern* or reading-desk in the church, v. *Letteron*, Halliwell's Dict.

without cause they shall be fyned or otherwayes censured, as the Magistrats shall think fitt and that the Child be chastized for his unjust complaint.

Thirteenthly, That the severall classes in the schooll be called to the church per vices, as the ministers shall find convenient, (they acquainting the masters therewith twenty-four hours befor) where they are to be examined anent the principles of Religione.

Fourteenthly, That for the winter quarter, (from the first of November to the first of Februarie,¹) the scholars are not to conveen till nyn in the morning, and are to stay till twelve o'clock befor noon [*"in the foirnoon,"* Rector's MS., note 3, below].

Fifteenthly, That every scholar pay his school-dues at the beginning of each quarter.

Sixteenthly, That ther be two of the scholars appointed to goe to each of the two churches² every Sabbath day at the second bell afternoon and betwixt that and the last bell to repeat such ane portione of the Shorter Catechisme as shall be appointed to them from tyme to tyme, and this to begin after the next quarterly visitatione.

Seventeenthly, That those in the Grammar School who are learning to write shall only be taught by the masters of the high English School and that they write only in the loft above the Grammar School, betwix eleven and twelve befornoon, and that the master of the Grammar School notice ther writeing, and complain if the masters of the English School give not due attendance.

(Signed) JOHN ALLARDES, *Provest.*³

¹ Not in the Rector's MS., see n. 3.

² St. Nicholas' and Greyfriars'.

³ The text of the above is from the "Interim Report by the Committee of the Council of the City of Aberdeen on the Town's Public Schools," printed at the *Herald* Office, by G. Cornwall, 1834. A MS. copy commences the first of the three vols. of the Visitation Books, now preserved in the Town House. The framed copy in the School Hall was transcribed from a MS., of 1700, handed down from Rector to Rector, from which the above text has been revised. These Laws will also be found in Stuart's *Burgh Records of Aberdeen*, vol. ii.

CHAPTER VII

BYRON ON HIS SCHOOLDAYS IN ABERDEEN¹

WRITTEN BETWEEN MAY AND OCT. 1821

Aberdeen—Old and New, or the Auldtoun and Newtown.

FOR several years of my earliest childhood I was in that City, but have never revisited it since I was ten years old.² I was sent at five years old, or earlier, to a School kept by a Mr *Bowers*, who was called "*Bodsy Bowers*"³ by reason of his dapperness. It was a School for both sexes. I learned little more there, except to repeat by rote the first lesson of Monosyllables—"God made man, let us love him"—by hearing it often repeated, without acquiring a letter. Whenever proof was made of my progress at home, I repeated these words with the most rapid fluency; but on turning over a new leaf, I continued to repeat them, so that the narrow boundaries of my first year's accomplishments were detected, my ears boxed (which they did not deserve, seeing that it was by *ear* only that I had acquired my letters), and my intellects consigned to a new preceptor. He was a very decent, clever little Clergyman, named Ross,⁴ afterwards Minister of one of the Kirks (*East* I think). Under him I made an astonishing progress, and I recollect to this day his mild manners and good-natured pains-taking.

The moment I could read, my grand passion was

¹ From *Letters and Journals*, ed. R. E. Prothero, vol. v. p. 406.

² Byron's own statement here is conclusive against the theory of the late Rev. John G. Michie, minister of Dinnet, that Byron revisited Deeside after 1798.

³ John Bower, Teacher of English, *Aberdeen Almanack* for the year 1787, p. 179.

⁴ James Ross, born 1760, son of James Ross, teacher of Writing and Arithmetic, in Aberdeen; M.A., Marischal College, 1780; Schoolmaster at Borrowstoneness; licensed to preach, 1794; ordained one of the Ministers of St. Nicholas, June 1795, the year Byron entered the Grammar School; died 17th Oct. 1824. Scott's *Fasti*, Pt. vi., 472; note by Rev. Geo. Walker, of the East Church.

history; and why, I know not, but I was particularly taken with the battle near the Lake Regillus in the Roman History, put into my hands the first.

Four years ago, when standing on the heights of Tusculum, and looking down upon the little round Lake, that was once Regillus, and which dots the immense expanse below, I remembered my young enthusiasm and my old instructor.

Afterwards I had a very serious, saturnine, but kind young man, named Paterson,¹ for a Tutor: he was the son of my Shoemaker, but a good Scholar, as is common with the Scotch. He was a rigid Presbyterian also. With him I began Latin in Ruddiman's Grammar, and continued till I went to the "Grammar School" (*Scotice* "Schule"—*Aberdonice* "Squeel"), where I threaded all the Classes to the fourth,² when I was re-called to England (where I had been hatched) by the demise of my Uncle.

¹ Not as commonly supposed, Joseph Paterson, son of Alexander Paterson, Aberdeen, see p. 151, afterwards minister of Montrose, but his brother John, Mar. Coll. 1796-1900, M.A., a pupil at the School in Class V. up to Oct. 1797, when he was First Bursar at Mar. Coll., of 26 competitors. The following extract, from the *Dundee Courier* for May 17, 1906, in an article on Dr. Jos. Paterson, sets this question at rest:—

"The relation in which Dr. Paterson stood to Lord Byron has been the cause of much controversy. He was never, as many suppose, really tutor to the poet, and a letter written eighteen years ago gave some interesting information on the much debated point. The Doctor's brother, a very distinguished student of Aberdeen, was, according to the letter-writer, for a considerable time Byron's tutor. When that brother, whose health was never robust, was occasionally unable to attend his pupil, his place was supplied by Joseph, afterwards the Doctor. On such occasions Byron's mother was always present—'not the wisest of mothers,' as the Doctor would say when speaking of her. On one of these occasions the boy had been reading from the Latin *Delectus* Horace's lines about death knocking at the palaces of kings and the huts of the poor. After translating the Latin lines, he looked up in Mr. Joseph Paterson's face, and said, 'Mr. Paterson, will I die?' Mr. Paterson said certainly he would, and was proceeding to add something, when Byron's mother started up, rushed forward, drew off the boy, and having emphatically contradicted the statement made, assured her son again and again that he would never die, and ended by dismissing the temporary tutor with distinct intimations that if his brother could not find another substitute she would. Concluding his letter, the writer pens, 'All this, curious enough, as indicating under what maternal influences Byron's boy-life was moulded, was told me by Dr. Paterson over a letter which he had received from Murray, who was about to publish a new edition of Byron's "Life," and who had written to the Doctor on the supposition that he had been the poet's tutor, and could contribute anecdotes and incidents connected with his early life which might be interesting. He simply wrote Murray that he had not been Byron's tutor, but his brother was, and that he had nothing to tell connected with the poet.'"

² This statement shows that Byron was enrolled in Class I. at entry, most probably in Jan. 1795, when he was seven years of age. At this time, as the Register shows, promotions occurred after the new year. Unhappily the Register for 1795 has been lost, see pp. 174, 177, 179, and n. Had Byron completed the school course in Class V., 1799, he would have been eleven and a half years of age when ready for the University! *i.e.* at least three or four years younger than the average age of the last a fact class, worth noting in considering the record of his class-places; see p. 174.

I acquired this handwriting, which I can hardly read myself, under the fair copies of Mr Duncan¹ of the same city. I don't think that he would plume himself upon my progress. However, I wrote much better then than I have ever done since. Haste and agitation of one kind or another have quite spoilt as pretty a scrawl as ever scratched over a frank.

The Grammar School might consist of over a hundred and fifty of all ages under age. It was divided into five classes, taught by four masters, the Chief teaching the fifth and fourth himself, as in England the fifth, sixth forms, and Monitors are heard by the Headmasters.

¹ "Teachers of Writing, Arithmetic, &c. Wm. Duncan, Alexr. Sinclair," *Aberdeen Almanack* for the year 1787, p. 179.

CHAPTER VIII

THE SCHOOL IN BYRON'S DAYS

WHEN Byron entered the Grammar School, probably in January 1795, the building erected, or opened, in 1757,¹ consisted of a low, one-storied structure, standing in Schoolhill on the site now occupied by Gray's School of Art. In shape it was like the letter H, the front bay, railed off from the street, forming a small, roughly paved yard. The front wings to right and left had separate entrances, and were occupied by two classes. The centre of the building, or "Public School," extending across to the outer walls, was reached up two or three steps by a door in the middle, above which was the humble belfry, still preserved in the present buildings, along with Ferguson's bell (see illustrations). Facing the door inside stood "the Desk" on a broad, low platform, sufficient to accommodate the "Visitors" at the annual Visitations; and on both sides of this the rows of scholars' desks or "factions" faced each other, with a passage down the centre. From the Public School doors opened into the wings to back and front, occupied by the classes I., II., III., and IV. with V., the Public School being occupied only for prayers at assembly, on public occasions, and when the room for IV. and V. proved too small for the numbers. Mean as the building was in appearance and accommodation, even for Byron's days, when the city must have numbered some 26,000 inhabitants,² it had to do duty for nearly 70 years longer, and was still, in 1853, held sufficient to accommodate as many as 436 boys, the largest number

¹ Of the "sklaited" building of 1623, with its "loft," and Ferguson's belfry of "aistlerwark," which the above superseded, no picture is extant, see p. 56; nor of the earlier "thekked" building, see p. 24.

² Census of 1801, 26,992 inhabitants.

attained under Dr. Melvin.¹ Of these 102 were in Class V., and 69 in IV., together 171, in charge of the Rector. But in Byron's days the total numbers never exceeded 160.

At that time, and for many years before and since, the custom was for the three Under-Masters or "Ushers" to take the first three classes in rotation, being promoted, so to speak, along with their class, till they passed the boys over to the Rector in IV. The numbers in the first or "Elementarian" class vary considerably throughout the whole period during which this custom prevailed, and afford some insight into the popularity, and success as teachers, of the three masters. Parents were not slow to make their arrangements accordingly, either by early entry, or by keeping their sons back for a year or so with their preparatory schools or tutors, in order to enrol the boy with a favourite teacher. Possibly some such consideration may have induced Byron's mother to enrol her boy, precocious though he was, at the tender age of 7, when he must have been some three years younger than most of his classfellows. At a time when it was quite usual for schoolboys of fair average ability to complete the course in Class V. at the age of 14 and proceed to the University, Byron, who in 1798 left the School, in Class IV., at the age of 10½ years, would have attained the University entrance standard, such as it was, before he was 12 years of age. Nay it was no uncommon thing for boys to leave from the fourth, at least five of Byron's classfellows doing so in 1798.²

This fact is to be borne in mind when we consider his quarterly class places, determined, no doubt, solely by such proficiency in Latin Rudiments and "Version" writing as could be drilled into boys, who spent their weary days in the exclusive study of Latin, and that on the narrowest basis ever devised by educational pedantry. It is not surprising that the places, as given in the register, vary considerably, but not more so than in the case

¹ In 1860 the total number reached 537, including 197 Extraneans, namely boys who came in for a final polish in version-writing; see Table of Numbers, App. iii.

² The late Mr. Alexander Fraser, merchant in Java, was born Dec. 29, 1816, entered the School in Class II., 1826; Marischal College, 1829-33, M.A., æt. 16; died in London, July 5, 1904.

of others of the more conventional type of scholarly lads.

	1795. (Register lost.)	1796.				1797.				1798.				1799.			
		29th Jan.	29th Ap.	4th June	25th Oct.	6th Jan.	7th Ap.	23rd June	13th Oct.	5th Jan.	13th Ap.	18th June	20th Oct.	12th Jan.	10th Ap.	29th Jul.	25th Oct.
No. in the School	(?)	127	132	141	160	140	139	138	143	156	149	147	151	174	170	160	167
	Class I.	Class II.				Class III.				Class IV.				Class V.			
1No. in Byron's Class	(?)	38	28	33	32	33	34	35	34	30	29	28	25	19	17	19	24
1Byron's place . .	(?)	23	16	6	22	13	18	21	22	22	5	17	—	—	—	—	—

During the three years for which Byron's record above has been preserved, his general health was such that he was able to attend regularly every quarter.

In the Visitation Book, vol. ii., it is recorded that in 1824 Mr. James Watt was in charge of Class I., Mr. James Melvin of Class II., and Mr. Robert Forbes of Class III. Working backwards through the succession of teachers, it appears that Byron's teacher was Mr. Alexander Leith, who had taught in the School since about 1777, first as Assistant in place of Mr. John Dun, the invalid son of the Rector, and, since 1791, as full Under-Master, on the appointment of Mr. James Cromar, Senior, to be Conjunct-Rector.

The titular Rector at this date was Dr. James Dun, son of John Dun, Campheir, born about 1708. In 1732 he graduated M.A. at Marischal College, being then in his 23rd or 24th year, an unusually advanced age for those days. In the *Aberdeen Journal*, 1798, occurs the notice, "Died here on the 16th November, in the 90th year of his age, James Dun, LL.D., who was Rector and Master of the Grammar School of this city for the space of 66 years. . . ." In 1732 he was appointed Under-Master in the School. In 1744, on the death of Mr. John Milne,¹ James Dun was elected Master or Rector, and as appointments were *ad vitam aut culpam*, he con-

¹ See List of Rectors and Masters, App. i. For the dates of Dr. Dun's life, and much information besides, the writer is indebted to Mr. A. M. Munro, City Chamberlain, in this, as always, most courteous in communicating from the great stores of his learning in local history.

tinued to enjoy the salary of his office till his death. In April, 1772, the University conferred on him the degree of LL.D., "as a proof and testimony of their regard . . . and of their sense of the services he has done to Literature during the space of forty years in which he has acquitted himself as a teacher of the Latin tongue with great credit to himself and advantage to the town and University of Aberdeen, as well as to the country in general." His wife, "Mrs. Mary Beaton," died on the 27th Sept., 1781, in the 76th year of her age. She must therefore have been his senior by about three years. Their only daughter, Mary, was married on June 28, 1767, to Dr. James Beattie, a master in the School, 1758 to 1760, afterwards, Oct. 1760, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Logic at Marischal College, famous in his day as the author of a work supposed to have demolished the atheistical writings of Voltaire,¹ but better known now as the author of "The Minstrel," a poem destined to exercise no small influence in form and manner on the genius of Byron.

In 1791 Dr. Dun's advanced age led him to retire from the active duties of teaching, his place being taken by Mr. James Cromar (senior of the name), with the title of Joint-Rector. This Mr. James Cromar had only recently, in the same year, been appointed Under-Master, in succession to James Shirreffs. On his appointment as Joint-Rector, Mr. Alexander Leith, as we have seen, was promoted from Assistant to Under-Master; and another James Cromar, Junior, introduced about this time as Assistant in place of John Dun, the Rector's son, was appointed Under-Master in 1796, and Rector, 1803 to 1826.²

About December 23, 1795, James Cromar, Senior, for some unexplained reason, absconded; and rumours of this reaching the Town Council, on 11th January, 1796, Provost George More convened a special meeting in the Town House, attended by the Provost, four Baillies, the Dean of Guild and Treasurer, Mr. James Hadden—Dr. Brown, Dr. Hamilton, Professor Copland, Professor

¹ See the painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds in Marischal College, a priceless work of Art, but as fulsome as it is futile in conception.

² The oldest living alumnus of the School (1906), Mr. James Wallace, retired Inspector of Poor, entered in 1822, while Mr. Cromar was still Rector.

Beattie, Jun., Professor Stewart, Professor Kidd, Dr. Sherrefs, and Dr. Gordon,¹ minister; and also by certain gentlemen called by the Magistrates for their opinion and assistance. All met within the Town Hall of Aberdeen, the assistants being Dr. Fordyce, Commissary, Mr. Charles Bannerman, advocate,² Bishop John Skinner,³ Baillie [ex-Baillie] Shepherd, Provost Auldjo,⁴ Mr. Hay Lumsden, advocate, Mr. Henderson of Caskieben, and Convener Clerk.

The Provost, *praeses*, explained that they were called to consider the present state of the Grammar School and the absence of some of the established Masters, particularly of Mr. James Cromar, Joint-Rector, "who had deserted and left not only his duty of teaching, but also the town of Aberdeen, several weeks ago, without having given any previous intimation to any of the other Masters of the School for such conduct." Thereon it is agreed to hold a Visitation of the School, "for the purpose of enquiring into its present State of Doctrine and Discipline and the Cause of the absence of Mr. Cromar or any other of the Masters." This took place on Wednesday, Jan. 13th, at 10 A.M., when the above gentlemen, accompanied also by Dr. Beattie and Mr. Ross, met within the Grammar School. In conference they agreed on certain questions to be put by the Provost in name of the Visitors, of which the following is an extract. Those that were put to the Masters were in the main the same as those put to the Rector, Dr. Dun. Mr. Andrew Dun answers for the Third Class, which he had conducted in 1795. According to Dr. Dun's evidence, Mr. James Cromar had performed the work of Mr. John Dun for about five years, and received for his trouble the fees of the Class but not the salary. Mr. Andrew Dun, by his own account, had been about eleven years Assistant, "first introduced as an Assistant to

¹ These were the annual "Visitors" who on Oct. 21st preceding had held the usual "Visitation." For a picturesque account of the function by one whose memories of the School were almost contemporaneous, see ch. xii.

² Father of Alexander Bannerman, Byron's classfellow, ch. ix. below.

³ Himself an alumnus of the School, -1757, M.A. 1761; son of an alumnus, John Skinner, -1734, M.A. 1738, Episcopal minister of Longside, and author of "Tullochgorum," according to Burns "the best Scotch song ever Scotland saw" (H. G. Reid's *Songs and Poems by the Rev. John Skinner*, p. xxviii.).

⁴ Of Forthlethen, Provost 1791-92. The account in the text, slightly abbreviated, is from the minutes of proceedings in the Visitation Book, vol. ii.



JAMES DUN, LL.D.

MASTER, 1732; RECTOR, 1744-1798

From the painting in the School Hall

“Mr James Cromar, Junr., having been also examined in what capacity he teaches at present in the School— Answered that he has been employed about three years as an Assistant to Mr John Dun ; For which he gets only the Emoluments of the Class, but no Part of the Salary— That he received the first Year £25
the second 22 } or thereby—
the third 20 }

"9 Question.—At Candlemas¹ last did you receive any of those Gratuities or Extra fees which were formerly in use to be given on that day. Answer. No." The School numbers were returned as 139 in all besides 12 absent, 5 in bad health. Question put to Andrew Dun. "When did Mr Cromar Senr. desert his Duty in teaching the two higher Classes?"

“QUESTIONS PUT TO DR. JAMES DUN

A. The Visitation Books of the School containing these Laws are produced and lodged with the Town Clerk for the inspection of the Visitors.²

A. Two or three weeks ago.

¹ See on the "Candlemas Book," p. 182, note.

* Clearly, to this date, these books had been kept at the School.

3° Q. Did he name any person to teach during his absence?

A. No; nor did he give any previous intimation to Dr. Dun of his leaving Aberdeen.

4° Q. Have you any reason to expect that he will soon return?

A. The Doctor does not believe that he will have the effrontery or confidence ever to return to Aberdeen.

5° Q. What allowance did you make to Mr Cromar for teaching these Classes?

A. The School fees,¹ but no part of the Salary.

6° Q. What allowance would you now be willing to make to any other Assistant?

A. This will depend on the Merit of such Assistant; but not less than the above allowance to Mr Cromar.

7° Q. How long has Mr Cromar Younger taught the Class for your Son Mr John Dun; And what allowance have you made him therefore?

A. About five years. And he gets for his Trouble the Fees of the Class, but no part of the Salary.

8° Q. Are the 4th and 5th Classes employed in reading the same Lessons? And how long has this been the practice?

A. Yes. And this practice has been observed for the last five or six Years, and been found beneficial.

9° Q. In Composing Versions from English into Latin are the Scholars of the highest Class left entirely to chuse Vocables themselves?

A. This is sometimes done and sometimes not.

10° Q. Do the highest and lower² Classes both receive the same Argument?³ And are they equally assisted by the Masters in receiving Vocables?

A. The same Argument, but not of the same length.

11° Q. What Books are in use to be read in the 4th and 5th Classes?

A. Virgil, Terence, Livy, Cicero, Sallust, Cæsar,

¹ The average number of boys in Class IV., 1798-99, was 20, and in V., for the same period, 27. At 2s. 6d a quarter, Mr. Cromar's "allowance" must have amounted to little more than £23, 10s. per annum. Had this anything to do with his "absconding"?

² The "High Class" and the "Low" or "Lower Class," were common terms for Classes V. and IV.

³ Passage set for translation into Latin "Version"—the staple of education in those days and down to the 70's.—"Vocables," i.e. words and hints on rendering.

Horace. The greater part of the time is employed in reading Prose Authors.

12° Q. How many Versions are prescribed them in the Course of the Week?

A. Generally three.

13° Q. Are they when reading Poetry constantly exercised in scanning it, and repeating portions of it from memory?

A. Very frequently.

14° Q. Besides the general periods of Vacation, upon what special occasions does the Rector indulge the Boys with the Play?

A. Three weeks in July, and about ten days at Christmas;—on each Wednesday after 12 and Saturday after 11. On all public rejoicing days after 12. A day or two at the beginning of each Quarter,—at the Annual Visitation,—on the day the Synod meets,—sometimes at the Graduation,—and are allowed to see the Races once.

15° Q. May any Master do so in regard to his own Class?

A. Knows of no such Practice.

16° Q. What are the regular and stated Hours of teaching?

A. From 8 to 9, from 10 to 12, and from 3 to 5.

17° Q. How many Scholars are there in the two higher classes?

A. The Catalogue¹ which is produced will show this.

18° Q. Who has taught these classes since Mr Cromar went away?²

A. Mr Andrew Dun and Mr Cromar Junr.

19° Q. Do the Scholars attend the School on Sundays either before or after Sermon?

A. A Master attends regularly every Sunday morning,—says prayers in the Public School, and attends the Boys to Church,—but of late years very few of them have at-

¹ Satisfactory evidence that there was a Catalogue. What has become of it? Was this also "lodged with the Town Clerk" along with the Visitation Books, to find its way, like vol. i. of the latter, to the book-stalls of Castle St.? It is significant that a new Catalogue had to be started in Jan. 1796.

² Allowing for "ten days at Christmas" Mr. Cromar had probably missed attendance from about Jan. 3rd to the date of this inquiry on the 13th.

tended.—Dr. Dun further adds that the foregoing Answers correspond with the general Practice of the School since he gave up teaching" [*i.e.*, in 1791].

Then follow "Questions to the other Masters," Messrs. Andrew Dun, Alex. Leith and James Cromar, Jr., of which some extracts are given above.

On the 14th January, the Committee again met, and after consideration of the examination,

"Find that Mr James Cromar, who was some time ago appointed by the Town Council to be joint Rector of the Grammar School with Dr. James Dun, has deserted and left off discharging the Duties of that Office for several Weeks past, without giving any previous intimation either to Dr. Dun or any other of the Masters of the said School," . . . the report then repeats some of the evidence. They agree to report to the Town Council that some able and well qualified person should be chosen as assistant "or rather joint Rector with and successor¹ to him [Dr. Dun], also to appoint a temporary assistant, Dr. Dun to nominate three for their selection. "The Meeting farther unanimously find from the Yesterday's examination of the whole Grammar School Masters now read—That Mr John Dun, who was a good many years ago [*in* 1760] appointed by the Town Council to be one of the Doctors or Ushers of said School has not personally attended to or discharged any of the Duties of the said office, for upwards of Twenty Years past. But that during the whole of that time his Class in the School has been taught by an Assistant or Deputy, by the tacit Permission of all concerned, on account of the particular situation of his health both in Body and Mind—of which there yet appears no hopes of his recovery and convalescence," advise the resignation of Mr John Dun, "with some reasonable Pension, in way of an Annuity" . . . "they

¹ Their choice fell on Mr. Andrew Dun, possibly because he had already, in 1795, had charge of Class III. In 1803 Mr. James Cromar, then, in turn, in charge of Class III., was made Rector, in place of Mr. Andrew Dun deceased, see App. i. The bewildering number of Duns on the staff about this period was perhaps due to the provision in Dr. Patrick Dun's Will, *q. v.*, one of the few injunctions in that document which the Town Council observed with some degree of fidelity.

It is noteworthy that again, in 1826 and in 1853, their choice of Rector fell on the Master lately in charge of Class III., namely Mr. [Dr.] James Melvin, and William D. Geddes. No doubt their familiarity with the Class would strengthen their personal claims.

have every reason to be satisfied with the Diligence Attention and Abilities of Mr Cromar Younger in teaching of Mr John Dun's Class,—on which account they recommend him to the Notice of the Council . . . that all the Masters then present have discharged their respective Duties in teaching the Latin Language in such a manner as fully to merit the Approbation of the Patrons and Visitors as well as of the Public at large." . . . They then appointed a sub-committee to codify the rules, as laid down from time to time and entered in the Visitation Books, and to consider certain "Plans of Teaching" [*Time-Tables*] given in by Messrs. Leith and Andrew Dun for the first three Classes.

On Jan. 30th another Meeting was held, when Mr. Andrew Dun was appointed to be Joint-Rector, and the Town Clerk that same day intimated the same "publicly to the whole of the Scholars and Masters now present," enjoining on them due obedience, and Mr. James Cromar, Junr., was appointed to be one of the "established Ushers." The next entry is that of the usual Annual Visitation held Oct. 26th, 1796.

VISITATIONS DURING BYRON'S SCHOOLDAYS

1795, Oct. 21st.

1796, Oct. 26th.

1797, Oct. 25th.

1798, Oct. 24th.

At the first, 45 Prizes or "Praemiums" were given, all stamped with the Town's Arms. The list is subjoined, to show the severely utilitarian books with which juvenile merit was rewarded.

1795. *Fifth or High Class*.—Lemprier's Dictionary, Guthrie's Grammar, Homer's Iliad, Virgil Delphini, Horace do. (two copies), Homer.

Fourth or Low Class.—Guthrie, Homer's Iliad, Cicero's Orations, Robertson's Ancient Greece, Glasgow Greek Testament,¹ Leusden's do., London do.

¹ Probably in anticipation of their University course. No Greek was then taught in the School. In 1826 a sub-committee recommended the introduction of Greek for 8 of the 18 hours a week; but this was thought by the Council too great an inroad on the time devoted to Latin, and only 3 hours were allotted, for grammar and easy sentences. Dr. Melvin was a poor Greek scholar, and had little love for the work.

Third Class.—Buchanan's History, Kenneth's Antiquities, Ovid, Greek Testament (2 copies), Virgil, Terence, Cæsar (2 copies).

Second Class.—Robertson's Ancient Greece, Cicero de Officio [*sic*], Livy (three copies), Terence (4 copies), Horace (two copies).

*First or Elementarian Class.*¹—Latin Syntax (2 copies), Virgil (two), Buchanan² (two), Sacred Dialogues (three), Grammatical Exercises (two).

Of the curriculum we gain a fair idea from Mr. Andrew Dun's answer, in the above Inquiry, to Question 8, "Give a list of all the Books read in your Class during your Course of Three years."

"A. Rudiments [*i.e.* *Ruddiman's*], Vocabulary, Cordeus, Eutropius, Wall's Grammar, Grammatical Exercises, Cornelius Nepos, Ovid and Cæsar. Reading English practised in the first and second Classes, particularly in the 1st for the first three months."

H. F. M. S.

NOTE ON THE "CANDLEMAS" REGISTER, see p. 177 and Index.

A long narrow vol., 14 in. x 5 in., parchment bound, with thin leather straps. On the cover the dates "1747-1768, 1771, G.S." [Grammar School Register]. For the custom of giving the teachers a "benevolence" at Candlemas see the Cromar Correspondence, App. ii. The custom survived down to about 1830 in some of the private schools in Aberdeen. In this vol. the boys who gave £1, 1s. od. or more are inscribed large as *Reges*—there were two of these in 1747 who gave £1, 2s. 6d. For 10s. 6d. they were made *Principes*. In 1748 there was a *Cancellarius*—7s. 6d. A patent of nobility—*Proceres, Nobiles*—cost 5s. For 2s. 6d. they purchased knight-hood—*Equites*; and for 2s. the right to bear coat armour, esquires—*Armigeri*. For 1s. 6d. or 1s. they were merely *Plebei*; followed by a long array of those who gave nothing, *Servi*! These entries occur regularly to 1768. The list for 1771 is by classes, *Summae*, 16 names; *Secundae*, 25; *Tertiae*, 33, in all 74, who gave sums (fees?) varying from 21s., 10s. 6d., 5s. 3d., 4s., 2s. 6d., &c.

¹ Byron's class in 1795.

² Probably his Latin Psalms.

CHAPTER IX

BYRON'S CLASSFELLOWS

1. Allardyce, James [O.], 1796 Jan. to June; absent 1797. In IV. 1798, and remained in IV. 1799 to 29 July. At Mar. Coll. 1799.; M.D. 1822; son of George Allardyce, Banff.
2. Baird, James, first quarter of 1796.
3. Baird, Thos., 1796—to Oct. '99; absent 3rd quarter in '99.
4. Bannerman, Alexander, 1796–Oct. '99. Mar. Coll. '99–1802. Son of Charles Bannerman, advocate, Aberdeen.
5. Bannerman, George, '95 (4th Prize-winner) to Oct. '97.
6. Bartlet, John, '96 to Ap. '97.
7. Beattie, Alexander, '96 to Jan. '99.
8. Blaikie [Blackie and Blakie], James, 11th Prize in '95; '96, 5th Prize; '97, 4th Prize; '98, 8th Prize; '99, 6th Prize. Mar. Coll. '99–1802, M.A. Son of John Blaikie, plumber, Aberdeen; born 1786, admitted Advocate, 1808, Provost, 1833–35; of Craigiebuckler. An engraving of his portrait in the Town Hall, by John Philip, R.A., is in the School Hall, presented by his son, the late William Garden Blaikie (F.P.), D.D., LL.D., Professor of Apologetics and Pastoral Theology in New College, Edinburgh, Moderator of the Free Church in 1895. Provost Blaikie died suddenly in the Vestibule of the old Town House. His statue in marble by Sir John Steel, R.S.A., stands in the Vestibule of the Town House. It is said that his death was hastened by a recent visit to London, in an unsuccessful attempt to secure part of the wealthy Bridge of Don fund for

providing satisfactory buildings for the Grammar School. It was also "principally by his exertions and the aid of Alexander Bannerman,¹ M.P., that the Government were finally induced to contribute the sum necessary to make the scheme of rebuilding Marischal College possible." Mr. A. M. Munro's *Provosts of Aberdeen*, p. 275.

9. Bonniman, Andrew, 6th Prize in '95; 7th in '96; 15th in '97; attended also '98; '99, 5th Prize. Mar. Coll. '99-1802; son of John B., minister of Premnay; migrated to King's College, M.A. 1803; Rector of Fortrose Academy.
10. Chalmers, John, '96 to '99. In his last year he was 15th, 2nd, 6th, 17th. The name of John C., builder, Rose St., occurs in the Directory, 1827.
11. Chalmers, William, 1796-99. Son of James, printer, Aberdeen, and grandson of the founder of the *Aberdeen Journal*, Mar. Coll. '99-'03, M.A.; M.D., 1820; Surgeon, Hon. East India Company; retired, and afterwards lived in the Gallowgate; Directory, 1827.
12. Chapman, John, '96 to Jan. 99. The name of a John C., builder, George St., occurs in the Directory, 1827.
13. Courage, Alexander, '96, Jan. and April.
14. Cowie, Charles, 1796, Jan.
15. Cruickshank, William, '96 to Oct. '98. (See the "Forgotten Story" at the end of this chapter.)
16. Donald, William, '97, 9th Prize; '98, 1st Prize; '99, 5th, 15th, 1st, 1st. M.A. King's Coll., 1803. Entered the Army.
17. Duguid, Peter, '96, 10th Prize; '97, 8th; '98, 2nd. (Agent, Bank of Scotland, 1827?)
18. Duncan, George, 1797 Jan. and Apr. (Manager, Oil-gas Co., Trinity St., 1827?)
19. Duncan, James, 1796 Jan.-June. (Flesher, Wales St., or Leather Merchant, Schoolhill, 1827?)
20. Duthie, Alex., '96 to '99, absent '98 in 4th Quarter.

¹ Not Byron's classfellow of the same name, but the son of Thomas Bannerman, merchant in Aberdeen. He left the school in 1801, and attended two sessions at Marischal College. First M.P. in the Reformed Parliament; Governor of Prince Edward Island; knighted; Rector of the University, 1834.

- Son of Alex. D., Adv., Aberd. ; Mar. Coll., '99-1800 (of Ruthrieston, 1827 ?).
21. Forbes, George, Ap. 1798 to '99. Mar. Coll., '99 ; son of John F. of Boyndlie, Tyrie.
 22. Fowler, George, Oct. '96 to '99 ; 12th Prize in '97, 7th in '99. Son of Andrew F., Gilcomston ; Mar. Coll. '99-1800. Schoolmaster, Aberdeen (in Thains School, Shiprow, 1827).
 23. Gauld, George, Jan. '96.
 24. Gibbon, John, '96, 9th Prize ; '97, 6th Prize ; '98, 6th Prize. Son of Alex G., Sailor, Aberd. ; Mar. Coll., '98-'02, M.A. ; afterwards in Canada.
 25. GORDON, GEORGE BYRON, the poet. It was his mother's vanity at this time to have him called by the proud name of Gordon. Her husband, too, the poet's father, in documents conveying away the lands of the Barony of Gicht, appears as "John Byron Gordon." The poet's name appears variously in the register as "George Bayron Gordon" (a phonetic rendering of the English pronunciation ?), "Geo. B. Gordon," "Geo. Byron Gordon," "Geo. Byron," Ap. '98, and "Geo. B. Gordon," 18th June '98 (see *facsimile*)—"Si monumentum quaeris—" ?
 26. Greig, John, '96, 4th Prize ; '97, 2nd Prize ; '98, 5th Prize ; son of James G., Windmillbrae ; Mar. Coll., '98-02, M.A. Army Surgeon.
 27. Innes, James, '95, 9th Prize ; Jan. '96
 28. Kennedy, Donald, '95, 1st Prize ; '96, 1st Prize ; '97, 1st Prize ; '98 Jan. to June (29th, 29th, 5th).
 29. Lamb, George, '95, 8th Prize ; '96 Jan. to June, abs. 4th Quarter ; '97 ; 98 abs. 1st and 2nd Qu.
 30. Leith, James [Urquhart Murray]. Son of John L. of Barrack.—The Registers at this period seldom gave more than the first name. '96, 3rd Prize ; '97, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd ; 10th Prize,—such were the glorious uncertainties of the "Vairshon" !—'98, 4th Prize ; whereon he went from Class IV. to Marischal College and was 1st Bursar ; attended College for 3 sessions ; entered the 68th Foot, fought his way through the Peninsular War

to the rank of Captain, and fell in action at the very close of it. For the following extract from the Records of the 68th (Durham Light Infantry), Depot, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the writer is indebted to the courtesy of the Adjutant, Lieutenant A. E. T. Jacob, Aug. 20th, 1898 :

"According to our Regimental records he is shown as having been killed on Feb. 23, 1814, at Oergrequam, near Perigorade.¹ Thinking it may be of some interest to you I give you a short account of an engagement in which Capt. Leith was wounded, and another when he was killed.

"PENINSULAR WAR.

"On the 29th July 1813 the 68th by order gained the top of a mountain on their right, which was a very advantageous position, and which they were directed to maintain. The following morning the whole army in that direction retired and concentrated close on Pamplona with a view to prevent the enemy from throwing in supplies, which was their intention. At one in the morning of the 30th July 1813 the 68th advanced and found the enemy in position near the village of Ostio. On daylight appearing they were observed to be about 3000 in number. They descended from a rugged rock and gave battle. The 68th took possession of a small village, in which they maintained themselves with the most determined bravery, until the arrival of the remainder of the Brigade. The enemy observing the increase, took possession of a commanding position and kept up a most destructive fire until within pistol shot, when it became very desperate ; never was gallantry more conspicuous. The advance of the Brigade was so rapid that the enemy was literally hurled down the hill with immense loss. The colours of the 82nd were

¹ Peyrehorade, up the Adour, east of Biarritz and Bayonne. This was shortly after the passage of the Pyrenees.

planted on top of the Rocks amidst cheers from the other Divisions who witnessed the action, which closed at 5 in the evening.

"Among numerous casualties Capt. Leith was wounded.

"On the 23rd Feb. 1814 the 68th passed through Bedast,¹ attacked the enemy and drove them from their position at Oergrequam near Perigorade, in which action Capt. Leith² and Lieut. Stapylton were killed."

31. Leslie, James, June '96 to Oct. '97.
32. Lumsden, James, Oct. '97 to Oct. '98; son of John Lumsden in Belhelvie; Mar. Coll. '98-'99.
33. McDonald, John, Jan. '96. (? Mar. Coll. 1801-5, M.A. Schoolmaster, Aberdeen.)
34. Mollison, Francis, 1796 to Ap. '98.
35. Paul, Moses, '96 to '98.
36. Reid, Thomas, '95, 2nd Prize; '96 (abs. 1st Quarter) to '99. Son of John R., Merchant, Aberdeen; Mar. Coll. '99-'03. M.A., Advocate, Aberdeen, 1813. Living in Union St. in 1827.
37. Ritchie, James, June '97.
38. Robertson, June '97.
39. Sangster, James, 5th Prize, '95; '96 to June '97.
40. Scrog[g]ie, James, 7th Prize, '95; '97, 6th Prize; to '98, 7th Prize.
41. Shinie, George, '96-'97. Eldest son of Robert Shinie, soap manufacturer, and burgess of Guild. Lieutenant in a Volunteer Corps, formed in 1803, Kennedy, *Annals*; manager, Grandholm Works, Woodside; afterwards mill manager, Dundee; died about 1826. Grandfather of Mr. Robert Shinnie, Coachbuilder, Aberdeen.
42. Taylor, Thomas, 3rd Prize, '95 and '96; 1st Pr. '97; 3rd, '98: son of Wm. T., Aberdeen; Mar. Coll. '98-'02, M.A.

¹ Bidache, south of Peyrehorade, province of Basses Pyrénées.

² The name of "gallant Leith who fell in France," coupled with that of Wm. Jenkyns, M.A., C.I.E., another old "Grammar Boy," killed at Cabul, in 1879, is commemorated in "Bon Record," the Song of the School. There is a medallion monument to Jenkyns in the vestibule of King's Coll. Library. The Jenkyns Prize in Philology was founded in 1880 by his father, in memory of his son.

43. Thompson, David, Oct. '96.
44. Turner, Alexander, '96 to Jan. '98, abs. 3rd Qu. of '97.
45. Turner, Robert, '96 to Jan. '98.
46. Turner, William, '96 to Ap. '98.
47. Walker, John, Oct. '97, 5th Prize. (? Son of Alex. W., in Fraserburgh, Mar. Coll. '91-'99.)
48. Wilson, Francis, Oct. '97, 7th Prize; '98; '99, 4th Prize. Son of Jas. W., Junr., minister, Crathie; 1st Bursar, Mar. Coll., '99-'03, M.A. : winner of the Silver Pen in 1800.
49. Young, Gavin, 10th Prize '95; 8th '96; '97 to '99.

Besides the above, others entered the Class after Byron left in 1798.

Among others, Byron's contemporaries, but not class-fellows, in the School, the most distinguished was Andrew Skene, in the Class above him, son of Dr. George Skene, an eminent Physician in Aberdeen; born, Feb. 26, 1784; after attending at Marischal College, studied Law at the University of Edinburgh; advocate there, 1806; succeeded Lord Cockburn in 1834 as Solicitor-General for Scotland, but held office only for a few days, when the Ministry resigned; died, Ap. 2nd, 1835.

H. F. M. S.

A FORGOTTEN STORY OF BYRON

"The boys attending the Grammar School, who were simultaneously learning writing, of Mr. Duncan, the writing-master, had every day at twelve o'clock to cross the graveyard of the parish church of St. Nicholas, on their way from the Grammar School in the School Hill, to the writing school in St. Nicholas Street. One memorable day, on issuing from the Grammar School, these boys confronted such a storm of snow and hail as has but rarely visited even the northern city at the mouth of the Dee. Under the shelter of the high wall of the churchyard the boys battled their way against the wind and the drift as far as the gate. But here, the weaker boys were driven back by the hurricane, and remained, not daring to turn the corner or leave the shelter of the wall. The elder and stronger boys alone ventured across the wide, open, and exposed graveyard. Two of these offered a hand each, however, to little Byron, and all three daringly dashed into the blinding and bewildering drift. My informant, Dr. —, a physician, who after practising many years in India is now residing in Brighton, was one of the two lads. No sooner had they entered the storm than the boys were overpowered by it, and let go their hold of each other, for it was then every one for himself. My informant was seated in the evening with his family, when a servant came in great alarm, sent by Mrs. Byron, to inquire if anything were known of the fate of her son, who had been missing since the morning. His school-fellow could only answer, that everyone having had to shift for himself, he had lost him amidst the snow in the churchyard; the only hope he could suggest



BYRON IN 1795

FROM A MINIATURE IN THE VAUGHAN LIBRARY AT HARROW

Photographed by W. GOSHAWK, HARROW

CHAPTER X

ON TWO EARLY MINIATURES OF BYRON, IN 1795

THE illustration we give of Byron at the age of seven is from a miniature preserved at Harrow and reproduced for the first time in the *Bookman* for October 1905, in an interesting article on Byron by Professor J. Wight Duff, of the Durham College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, himself a former pupil of the Grammar School. Our illustration is from an excellent photograph by Mr. W. Goshawk, photographer, Harrow. Apparently it bears no inscription or mark of identification. But the camera has developed what looks like the remains of a blurred or half-obliterated inscription—(a blur); part of L (?) and, in a second word, the tail of a y (?), *i.e.* Lord Byron? The blur may have been “æ. 7” (?). The writer has been unable to elicit any information as to the history of this portrait.

It may be conjectured that it was painted in place of a wretched miniature, done early in 1795 by one William

being that Byron had found shelter under a tombstone,—flat tombstones resting on stones at each end, abounding in the churchyard. Dr. — believes, to this day, that men were employed to search the churchyard and under the tombstones, with lanterns, that they discovered little Byron under one of them, perishing of cold, and were only just in time to save his life. But this is a mistake. The other day I met a very old acquaintance of mine, known to me as a school-fellow of Byron at the Grammar School of Aberdeen, Mr. Cruickshank, recently clerk to the County Court at Greenwich. When I was narrating to him this snow-storm story, as told to me by Dr. —, he approved of the narrative until I mentioned the supposition of shelter under a tombstone, when he exclaimed: ‘No such thing! I was with him,—the weaker boys could not get into the churchyard at all. We could not leave the School Hill, and we found shelter in Mr. Leslie Cruickshank’s hosiery; in whose kitchen we were dried and warmed, and sat waiting until our friends fetched us in the evening, when they could get to us, and found where we were. It was whilst waiting in this kitchen that I first perceived something of the poet in Byron, for to while away the time he told us a beautiful tale out of the “Arabian Nights.”’ The slight discrepancy in these accounts of the adventure may be easily explained, by supposing that little Byron slipped out of the hands of his stouter comrades the instant he felt the full force of the storm, and was then driven towards the churchyard-gate.”

JOHN ROBERTSON, *Athenæum*, Nov. 9, 1861, communicated
by Rev. W. ROGERSON, *Cults*.

Kay, in which Byron is represented at full length, bow in hand, an impossible target in the background. As a portrait it is without merit, and of no interest except as showing the costume. This portrait, with a watch bearing the Arms of Byron, was given by Byron to his nurse May, Mary, or Margery Gray, according to her own account. After the removal to England, she was dismissed from the service on the representation of Mr. Hanson, for her "shocking" treatment of the child. She returned to Aberdeen, and married James Laing, a candlemaker, who, on her death, 10th May 1825, at the age of 46,¹ presented the watch and miniature to Dr. Ewing, who attended her in her last illness. From him the relics passed to his son, Dr. Ewing, and are now in the possession of his widow, living in South Devon.

In the *Aberdeen Journal* for Tuesday, March 3rd, 1795, there appeared the following curious advertisement :—

"STRIKING LIKENESSES

WILLIAM KAY

Profile and Portrait Painter in Caricatura, from Edinburgh, Begs leave to acquaint the Ladies and Gentlemen of Aberdeen and its neighbourhood, that he proposes to do Profile Likenesses in Colours—Full lengths 1*l.* 1*s.* and half lengths 10*s.* 6*d.*

Owing to the late inclement weather, the principal part of his exhibition of Caricatures has not yet arrived ; but in the meantime, a few specimens of his likenesses may be seen at his lodgings in Mr. Russell's Queen St."

Do other specimens of his "Caricatures" survive in our midst?

H. F. M. S.

¹ From her tombstone, in St. Machar's Churchyard. She was therefore born about 1779, and some 19 years of age, when she accompanied Byron to England.

PART II

CHAPTER XI

GRAMMAR SCHOOL REMINISCENCES

By JOHN RAMSAY ¹

THE MAY PLAY

To the cherished associations investing this most ancient, well-conducted, and useful seminary, no little violence has occasionally been done by the tamperings of pretentious innovation. But, while some new arrangements may claim approval on the score of manifest utility, yet the undeniable results of others seem to be gradually awakening, in the public mind, the conviction that mere change is not always synonymous with improvement. We must be permitted to regret the removal of a school from a locality where it had flourished for some six centuries,² a memorial of royal munificence, of which it proved itself not unworthy, by the fruits of the labours of many an able and zealous teacher in succeeding generations. It was certainly in operation towards the close of the thirteenth century, years not a few, before the foundation of Winchester and of Eton, and long before grammar schools were rather common in England. It became famous for many eminent masters, whose qualifications it was customary to test by rigorous examination. Among the more ancient we find the names of Cargill, Reid, and Wedderburn; in later times we may note Dr. James Dun, who was either master or rector for the long period of seventy-two years³; his son-in-law, Beattie, the poet; and Dr. Melvin, of our own day. We humbly think that an effort might have well been made in favour of a reasonable sacrifice to the old *genius loci*, even on the score of

¹ Born in London, 18th Sept. 1799; at the School, 1807-1813; 2nd bursar, King's Coll.; M.A., 1817; private secretary to Joseph Hume; teacher in Gordon's Hospital; for 14 years editor of the *Aberdeen Journal*; died 4th June, 1870. The above and ch. xii. reprinted from *Selected Writings of John Ramsay*, with *Memoir and Notes* by the late Alex. Walker, LL.D., himself an *alumnus* of the School. See also *Mortifications*, p. 155.

² In 1863.

³ Sixty-six years, 1732-1798, see p. 174 and App. i.

its demonstrated convenience for the eastern, as well as for the western, quarters of the city. Where there is the will there is the way. Might it not have been possible to acquire the present Gordon's Hospital for the purposes of a grammar school, and other public seminaries, transferring the former to the site of the new Grammar School, a situation most desirable, for various reasons, for such an institution? But enough of such matters, which are but incidentally connected with our present object, and regarding which we have no wish to provoke controversy or to dogmatise.

To those whose recollections are more or less synchro-nal with our own, the return of the merry month of May must evoke recollection of the holiday enjoyment of its first three days, a standing privilege of the Grammar School boys, in commemoration of the foundation of the school which has been recently abandoned. A still older school tradition places somewhere near the top of Harriet Street; while the oldest was probably part of the monastic buildings of the Blackfriars, which stood somewhere near the site of Gordon's Hospital.

Of all the play-days, the first three days of May were the most delightful. They were a kind of *gude send*. We even thought more of them, for all their shortness, than of the *Simmer Play*, or the *Christmas Play*. These we looked on as our own, by right of common use and wont. They were the same at *all* schools; but the *May Play* was the peculiar glory of *our* school. We could enjoy the privileged pleasure of sauntering about the streets and cracking boyish jokes at the expense of some less favoured comrades who were creeping unwillingly to some other school. Or, we would gaze at the prints and story-books in the booksellers' windows; and feast our eyes, if not our appetites, with the tempting cates in the confectioner's. Then, we had no long task to mar the enjoyment of those holidays. Besides, they came on us in the sweet prime of the year, when everything around us was glad. We seemed to share the joys of Nature's own holidays.

A party of some half-dozen of us, perhaps, meet by accident in the street. The day is bright and breezy; how to spend it is settled in general council. The question of ways and means is matter of inquiry. Our con-



THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS, 1757-1863

From a photograph by G. W. W.

solidated funds are rather limited, but are considered on the whole sufficient. After due deliberation, "the Rocks!" (at Nigg) is the word. So, off we go, ever and anon capering along the streets at a speed which seems rather superfluous in those who have the whole day at their commandment, as Falstaff says. Crossing the *Plainstones*, we fail not, of malice prepense, to count the fishwives, careless of a broadside of Billingsgate from the clamorous crew. The declivity of Marischal Street naturally leads us in a sort of gallop to the quay, where we hail our old friend, *Jupiter*, take a sham shy at his target of gingerbread, thereby incurring his ready and fervent, but by no means refined malison. Arrived at the Lime Sheds, which we pass, enveloped, like our "*pius Æneas*," in a white cloud, we encounter that formidable personage, *Water Kelpie*, whom, of course, we cannot pass without a word of recognition. The natural consequences are—a chase—a half-brick thundering after us—a volley of articulation not to be recorded—smithy danders, and various other missiles in rapid succession. But we are too nimble for the enemy, and "We care not who sees our backs." So we *cut* through *Middle Third*, and scarcely think ourselves safe until we reach the *Boil House*, where we meet *Eelie Betty* in hermaphrodite apparel—politely beg a Sunday of her jacket, and are by her treated with silent contempt.

We then endeavour to work our passage across the ferry, two of us hanging on to one oar, to the amusement, perhaps the annoyance, of the boatman, who taunts us with the observation that he wants "nane o' our wark." Landed, away we scour to the rocks, laughing, speaking all at once, slapping each other, and playing all sorts of tricks. Here we spend the livelong day, alike insensible to the cravings of hunger, and careless of strict parental injunction to "come hame in time." The hours pass swiftly along. We cram ourselves with dilse, tangles, and badderlocks (active our digestion), hunt for young crabs, fish for sæthes, collect shells, set off flists of gunpowder by means of a spectacle eye, perform various gymnastic feats, bathe in the sea, and so forth, until the lengthening shadows and declining sun admonish us of home. Wearied with play and exhausted by hunger,

which neither buoyant spirits can stave off, nor our scanty provant of bap or biscuit appease, we slink homewards, when, perhaps, we narrowly escape a rencontre with "the Maister" (Nicol), whose well-known form is readily recognised by the *hat*—perched in a most authoritative attitude on the top of his deeply powdered head—the *cane* stuck under his left arm, both hands thrust into his breeches pockets—while his snow-white stockings display to advantage the shapely limb, and the peremptory gesticulation of the foot which stamps the law to all the juvenile subjects of his most absolute government! At length we reach our respective homes, where some cold collation and a hearty scolding, with sundry cuffs, perhaps, by way of clincher, are our inevitable portion. These we endeavour to take as coolly as possible, and soon, in slumbers light, seek forgetfulness of the transactions of the day.

To those who delight thus to live over again such days of buoyant spirits and exuberant health, is it not matter of thankfulness to feel—that the petrifying influence of weary years of incessant yet often fruitless toil—that the heart-sickness arising from the frequent experience of reasonable hopes blighted in the bud—that the disgust naturally consequent on concourse unavoidable with the proud, the false, the fickle, the ungrateful, and the vain—that all the soul-searing effects of a chequered life have still left their hearts impressible by renewed familiarity with the long-remembered sports and haunts of their youth? In the outward man Old Time may have wrought much regretful change. More years ago than they care to confess even to themselves, light was their step as their hearts; their locks were of brightest chestnut, their eyes beamed with courage and with hope. Now—fast are they falling into the sere and yellow leaf, years are silvering o'er what care may have left of once sunny locks, while "those that look out of the windows are darkened" indeed. But, let Time do his worst; they grumble not at his ravages—'tis the common lot. His chilling influence cannot quite quench the fire of youth. If years have robbed them of many external enjoyments, they have learnt to seek, not in vain, enjoyments within themselves.

CHAPTER XII

"THE VISITATION" ¹

By JOHN RAMSAY

TIME has been when this heading must have suggested to many a reader feelings which he may now, perhaps, have some difficulty in re-awakening. Men long accustomed to the world, in its most worldly sense, may be somewhat apt to forget that the rising race have a world of their own too, and just as rife with enterprise, anxiety, and care, in its own way, as that in which your reverend seigniors fret their hour.

With all the youthful disciples of our public schools, "The Visitation" was a very great day indeed. More especially used this to be the case with the Grammar School at the period to which our reminiscences extend, but of which the distance we care not much to confess—a silence in which a remnant of condisciples will mayhap approvingly acquiesce. Be this as it may, in our day the Visitation of the Grammar School was an occasion marked by a solemnity bordering on the awful. Its advent was looked forward to with much anxious forecast of its eventualities, for at least three months previous to its actual arrival. As it approached, the anxiety felt by youthful aspirants to scholastic distinction increased to rather painful intensity. In the two junior classes, what keen competition to secure a seat within the honoured bounds of the first four "factions," before the places were stopped—when fixed the fate of all remained! In the higher classes, what hoarding of "phrases"! what collation of "idioms"! what rivalry in daily "trial versions"! The day before the Visitation was a half-holiday, but most falsely so called, for its afternoon was one of painful

¹ Printed in the *Aberdeen Journal*, March 1, 1842.

preparation, and no trifling perturbation of spirit. No use *now* to count the hours to the great day—it came with to-morrow's sun! In vain the endeavour to beguile the moments of aching suspense by the ruling of version paper, the mending of pens, and the revisal of neglected lessons. All this brushing up of arms only served to keep up the anxiety connected with the approaching contest. Then there was such rigorous ablution of the person—that of Saturday was nothing to it! No wonder; had we not to pass muster before “authorities”—civic, clerical, and academic! At length the appointed hour of meeting approached. How many smartly arrayed, rosy little fellows, did that morning behold trudging rather pensively from all quarters towards the Schoolhill, bending under load unwonted of dictionaries, and grammars, and phrase books, that nothing might be wanting in such munitions of scholastic war. Manifold their conjecturing as to “the version”—serious the speculation as to the chances of individual failure or success. Some, with a modesty which became their idleness as much as their youth, would declare that they did not expect “a book.” Others, whose experience had sought consolation under disappointment by reference to cases of neglected desert, ventured an opinion that they ought to get prizes; but they had their doubts about getting fair play. They had no friends—not they—in the Council. But the actual hour of meeting disperses the little groups of such speculators; each takes his seat in the “public school”; the catalogue is called amid silence as universal as unwonted, and all is tiptoe expectation for the arrival of the visitors. The whole school has undergone a lustration which carries something solemn with it, from its very rarity. The floors have actually been dusted over with clean sand, which gives additional impressiveness to the authoritative tread of the “Masters,” as they pace to and fro. And is not the Rector, arrayed in his gown, so grand?—just like a professor!—an indication of pomp and circumstance to be seen on such occasions only—a demonstration which impresses the “Eelieytes”¹ with ideas of the dignity of “the seminary” which have ne’er before entered their

¹ *I.e.* Elementarians, see p. 93 n. and Index.

little craniums, although, with the upper classes, it is rather the butt of daring witticism. But bold indeed are they who would hazard even a suppressed titter, whatever the provocation, at such a crisis, for the hour is come, and the men! It is heralded by the measured tread of the town serjeants, glimpses of whose red coats are caught through the windows, like flashes of lightning!

What solemn courtesy in the greetings between masters and visitors, the former positively appearing bareheaded, which shows us boys that there *are* greater men in the world even than they, albeit that may avail us not in sub-ferulary hour!

The "dask" is completely filled with visitors, the Provost presiding—but precentor-wise, to the "knock!" The "dask" assumes in our eyes new importance—*miratur novas frondes*—and looks as though it were intended for better things than "burrie" and all sorts of madcap pranks. Then the Rector delivers a speech—a Latin one! It sounds like a trial version. The great "version" is then given out. It is something about the Romans, or the Greeks, or the Carthaginians; Epaminondas; Turnus, king of the Rutuli; or at least Hamilcar—all familiar acquaintances of ours. Perhaps it is a plaguy passage from modern history—a thing by no means agreeable to our classical tastes; or it may smack somewhat of the marvellously philosophical, beginning with—"A certain author relates," followed by the qualification, "but I know not whether it be true," which is merely a trap for young grammarians; for it is of no earthly consequence whether the relation be true or not. Ah! the careful pen-scraping distinctly audible in the hush of that awful hour! Is it not the commencement of a struggle on which is hung the chance, not of a "book" merely, but, tentatively, of a "buss"? The dictation ended, the competitors are left to their fate. Unassisted, they must fight it out. Some get through the business rather rapidly. On the painful labours of others, the shadows of that shortish day rather ominously fall—and the latest at length leave the school, and *cetera divis*. Each has done his best, and a Porson could do no more.

In our day the prize-books were given on the night

of the day on which they were won. During the whole evening the Schoolhill was in an uproar. It swarmed with groups of scholars comparing notes about their versions. Here and there might be seen a "colleginer" laying down the law grammatical to a "buroch" of eager, inquiring juniors; squibs and crackers flew about in all directions; bells and knockers were compelled to vigorous exercise of their calling; shutters were exposed to wanton assault and battery. Old folks wondered what things would come to; that finishers of the law would have more work was quite clear!

The row at length was extinguished on the appearance, about ten o'clock, of the municipal authorities, in darkling procession, guided by the leading lights of the serjeants, two and two abreast (although not "trumpeters!"), each bearing a lantern radiant with a couple of candles. Again, is the "dask" crowded with the honourable, the reverend, the learned. The well-powdered head of the Town-Clerk towers amid the full blaze of "fours in the pound!" He unrolls the scroll of fate. The names of the successful competitors are announced by him rather with the voice of one having authority than of a mere scribe. Each fortunate rogue bustles up in front, and receives (with a *rax*) from the Provost's own hand the much-prized book—the honour acknowledged by a bow, bespeaking more gratefulness than gracefulness. Many, of course, are disappointed, but they soon forget their sorrow in the pastimes of the holiday week. So much of sketchy reminiscence of "auld langsyne." Who is insensible to the feelings which such retrospection suggests?—

"Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise,
 We love the play-place of our early days;
 The scene is touching, and the heart is stone
 That feels not at that sight, and feels at none.
 The wall on which we tried our graving skill—
 The very name we carved subsisting still;
 The bench on which we sat, while deep employed,
 Though mangled, hacked, and hewed, yet not destroyed—
 The little ones, unbuttoned, glowing hot
 Playing our games, and on the very spot,
 As happy as we once—

The pleasing spectacle at once excites
Such recollection of our own delights,
That, viewing it, we seem almost to obtain
Our innocent, sweet, simple years again.
This fond attachment to the well-known place,
Whence first we started into life's long race,
Maintains its hold with such unfailing sway,
We feel it e'en in age and at our latest day."

NOTE.—In illustration of John Ramsay's Visitation, the following official account for the year 1795, from the Visitation Book, vol. ii., is typical. The Day of the Visitation was 21st Oct., and the visitors, Provost More, Baillies Copland, Ritchie, Littlejohn and Farquharson, Dean of Guild and Treasurer—Dr. Brown, Mr. Sheriffs, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Ross and Mr. Thomson, Ministers, Professor Copland and Professor Beattie, Professor Stewart, Dr. Hamilton, Professor Kidd.

"The said day the above Visitors having taken trial of the several Classes Find that the Scholars are profiting in learning under their different Masters To whom the Provost therefore in name of the Visitors returned thanks for their care and attention. And the Visitors appointed all the former rules and regulations for the discipline and government of the School to be observed and complied with.

"The same day the above Visitors considering that it is of importance to promote and encourage a good conduct and deportment among the Scholars of the Grammar School, as well as to excite an emulation for their advancement in learning, by bestowing a præmium upon the Boys of the different Classes, who are found to be the best Scholars after a comparative trial as hitherto practised They unanimously Resolve, that for the present year and hereafter, a Book, stamped with the Town's Arms, shall be given by the Provost in name of the Visitors to one boy of each of the Five Classes who shall be deemed and reported by a Majority of the remaining Scholars of his class to have been the best behaved for the preceding year—But defer the bestowing of the said Five Books untill some further day which shall be fixed upon by the Visitors for that purpose.

"[Signed] GEORGE MORE, *Provost*.

"Thereafter when the examinations were finished Forty five Bookes stamped with the Town's Arms were distributed to the different Classes conform to the rules formerly established by the Council and Visitors to the following boys who were found to be the highest in merit as follows, vizt." . . . (then follows the names, and books awarded, see p. 181).

CHAPTER XIII

DR. HILL BURTON ON DR. MELVIN

"It was a fine intellectual feast to find the late Dr. Melvin of Aberdeen exercising his first 'faction,' or form, on Buchanan's Psalms, though perhaps a stranger, ignorant of all he had trained his favourite pupils to, might have said the feast was made of meats too strong for the youthful company assembled round it. With subtle ease he could show how it was that each collocative idiomatic term and curious felicity of expression was truly in the spirit of the old Roman literature, though it was no servile mimicry or exact imitation of any precedent. True, the poet sometimes tripped, but did not Homer take a nap, and was it not the specialty of high and secure genius to be careless? There was that flagrant instance where Buchanan, not only forgetting that he was repeating the prayer of so improper a person as the goddess of love, but losing hold of the first principle of the Christian faith, began the 4th Psalm with a line from the tenth Æneid¹—

"O pater !—O hominum divumque æterna potestas !"

But would Buchanan have for a moment contemplated theft in the case, any more than the millionaire who takes a better hat than his own from the lobby table? It was an instance of the negligence of supreme genius—the line was running in his head, and he thought he had composed it. The coincidents of this kind, called parallel passages, are among the accepted curiosities of literature. Some have taken in this way even from themselves, and none oftener than Virgil.

"I believe there is a considerable number of men now

¹ [Melvin might have defended Buchanan's *divum* out of the English Psalms. "Worship Him, all ye gods."]

in middle life, who, if they were to recall their earliest impulse towards the emulation and intellectual enthusiasm which has brought them to eminence, would carry it back to the teaching of Melvin. I was delighted the other day to see justice done to the great powers of Dr. Melvin, by a distinguished pupil of his, Professor Masson, who says: 'Melvin, it is now the deliberate conviction of many besides myself, was at the head of the Scottish Latinity of his day. How he had attained to his consummate mastery in the Latin tongue and literature—how, indeed, amid the rough and hasty conditions of Scottish intellectual life, there could be bred a Latin scholar of his supreme type at all—is somewhat of a mystery.'

"But Melvin's scholarship arose neither from ambition to rise by it, nor from a peculiar call to the dry analysis of a dead language. He was a man of bright active intellect and fine taste, and that he should have come to use, as the tool of his intellectual activity, the language of Rome instead of that of his own country, was probably incidental; possibly it may have been from a remnant of the shyness of competing in the language of England with Englishmen, which lingered long in Scotland, especially with those whose opportunities of mingling with the world happened to be limited. However it was, Melvin, like the great master he revered, made for himself an intellectual home in the language of Rome, and became as familiar with everything written by Roman writers, or about them, as the old frequenter of a town is with the houses and the stones he passes daily. His edition of 'Horace for every Day in the Year'¹ was merely a variety of the conditions under which he kept up constant companionship with an old ever-welcome friend."—*The Scot Abroad*.

¹ [The library of Dr. Melvin was believed to contain 365 editions of Horace, or one for every day in the year, and this belief is the explanation of the reference in the last sentence of the above.]

CHAPTER XIV

JAMES MELVIN

BY PROFESSOR DAVID M. MASSON, *Historiographer-Royal*.

THE Schoolhill in Aberdeen, a street of oldish houses, derived its name from its containing the public Grammar School of the town. There had been a Grammar School in the burgh, on or near this same site, for centuries; and in the records of the town frequent mention is made of this School, and of the names of its masters. Its most noted benefactor, in later days, had been Dr. Patrick Dun, Principal of Marischal College, in the first half of the seventeenth century. How many successive buildings of older make had served for the School before Dr. Dun's time, or what sort of building it was lodged in when he took interest in it, I can only vaguely guess through fancy, and through such occasional entries in the burgh accounts as that of a sum of £38, 5s. 6d., in or about the year 1597, for "thecking the Grammar School with hedder."¹

The School in my time was a plain, dingy building, which had been erected, I believe, in 1757, and which, if it was superior to some of its predecessors in not being thatched with heather, but slated and quite weather-tight, was certainly nothing to look at architecturally. Within a gateway and iron-railed wall, separating the School from the street, and forming a very limited playground in front, you saw a low main building of a single storey, parallel with the street, and having a door with stone steps in the middle, and windows at the sides; and from this main building there projected towards the street two equally low wings, forming the two junior class-rooms. Two similar wings, which you could not well see from the street, projected from the main building behind, and accommodated the senior classes. The only entrance to the two back class-rooms was through the public school; the two front

¹ See p. 24 and note, and p. 27.

class-rooms might also be entered through the public school, but had separate doors from the front playground. The arrangements inside were simple enough. Each of the four oblong class-rooms had a raised desk for the master in one angle, and two rows of "factions," as they were called — *i.e.*, wooden seats, with narrow sloping writing benches in front of them—along the two sides of the oblong, so as to leave a free passage of some width in the middle for the master, when he chose to walk from end to end. Each "faction" was constructed to hold four boys, so that the look of a full class-room was that of a company of boys seated in two parallel sub-divisions of fours along the walls. In the public school, where meetings of all the classes together took place for general purposes, the main desk, a wooden structure of several tiers, was in the middle of the long side of the oblong, immediately opposite the main door, and there were four sets of somewhat larger "factions," where the several classes sat on such occasions, all looking inwards.

The entire accommodation internally, as well as the look externally, was of the dingiest; nor was it, perhaps, very creditable to the town that, even in the middle of the eighteenth century, they should not have risen to a somewhat loftier idea of the sort of building suitable for a School that was already historical among them, and was still likely to be of importance. But boys think little of these things; and the low, dingy building had for them many snug, and some venerable, associations. In these rows of "factions," which they thumped energetically with sticks and fists at every meeting, making an uproar till the masters appeared, and over which at other times they leaped in a thousand fashions of chase and mutual fight, roaring out such tags of traditional school-doggrel as—

Qui loupavit ower the factions
Solvat down a saxpence,

they could not but have a dim idea that generations of young Aberdonians, either long defunct and in their graves, or scattered abroad in mature living manhood, had sat and made uproar before them. The very tags of doggrel they shouted had come down to them from those

predecessors; and in the appearance of the "factions" themselves, all slashed and notched and carved over with names and initials of various dates, deeply incised into the hard wood, there was a provocation to some degree of interest in the legends of the school. It was not in the nature of boyish antiquarianism to go back to the times of those older heather-thatched school-buildings, ancestors of the present, in which the Cargills and Wedderburns, and other early Scottish Latinists of note, had walked as masters; but some of the traditions of the existing fabric in the days of recent masters, whose names and characters were still proverbial, were within the reach of the least inquisitive.

Among these traditions by far the most fascinating was that of Lord Byron's connection with the School. When, in 1792,¹ Byron's mother had separated from her husband, the profligate Captain Byron of the Guards, she, being by birth a Miss Gordon of Gicht, in Aberdeenshire, had retired to Aberdeen with her little, lame, London-born boy, then not quite five years old, and with about £130 a year saved from her fortune, which her husband had squandered. The little fellow, living with his mother in the Broadgate, and catching up the Aberdeen dialect, which he never quite forgot, learnt his first lessons from two or three private tutors in succession, the last of whom he mentions as "a very serious, saturnine, but kind young man, named Patterson," the son of his shoemaker, but a good scholar. "With him," he says, "I began Latin in Ruddiman's Grammar, and continued till I went to the Grammar School (*Scotice* 'Schule,' *Aberdonice* 'Squeel'), where I threaded all the classes to the fourth, when I was recalled to England, where I had been hatched, by the demise of my uncle."² The fact thus lightly mentioned by Byron was, as may be supposed, no small splendour in the annals of Aberdeen. There were many alive in the town who remembered the lame boy well, and some who had been his schoolfellows. We used to fancy the "faction" in which he had oftenest sat; and there was no small search for his name or initials, reported to be still visible, cut by his own hand, on one of the "factions"—always, I

¹ 1790; Captain Byron died in 1791.

² See ch. vii. and notes.

believe, without success. One school-legend about him greatly impressed us. It was said that, on his coming to school the first morning after his accession to the peerage was known, and on the calling out of his name in the catalogue no longer as "*Georgi Gordon Byron*" but as "*Georgi Baro¹ de Byron*," he did not reply with the usual and expected "*Adsum*," but feeling the gaze of all his schoolfellows, burst into tears and ran out. But there are half a hundred Aberdeen myths about Byron, and this may be one of them.

The School was a grammar school in the old sense of the term as understood in England as well as in Scotland. It was exclusively a day-school for classical education in preparation for the University. In fact, down to my time, it was all but entirely a Latin school. The rudiments of Greek had recently been introduced as part of the business of the higher classes²; but, with this exception, and with the farther exception that, in teaching Latin, the masters might regale their classes with whatever little bits of history or of general lore they could blend with their Latin lessons, the business of the School was Latin, Latin, Latin. Since that time there have been changes in the constitution of the seminary to suit it to the requirements of more modern tastes in education. There is now more of Greek, and express instruction in Geography, History, and I know not what all; but in those days it was Latin, nothing but a four or five years' perseverance in Latin, within those dingy old walls. Although the usual age at which boys entered the School was from eight to twelve, it was assumed that the necessary preliminary learning in matters of English, and in writing and arithmetic, had been gone through beforehand; and, though there were public schools for writing, drawing, and mathematics, equally under the charge of the city authorities with the Grammar School, and which the pupils of the Grammar School might attend at distinct hours for parallel instruction in those branches, these schools were not attached to the Grammar School, and attendance at them was quite optional. So, on the whole, if you were an Aberdeen boy, getting the very best education known in the place,

¹ Domine, according to a more likely version of this tradition, see facsimile of the Register, "*Dom. de Byron*."

² See p. 182, n. 1.

you were committed, at the age of from nine to eleven, to a four or five years' course of drilling in Latin, five hours every day, save in the single-vacation month of July—tipped only with a final touch of Greek ; and, this course over, you were expected, at the age of from thirteen to sixteen, either to walk forward into the University, or, if that prospect did not then suit, to slip aside, a scholar so far, into the world of business. A four or five years' course, I have said ; for, though the full curriculum was five years, it was quite customary for readier or more impatient lads to leap to the University from the fourth class.

This exclusive, or all but exclusive, dedication of the School to Latin was partly a matter of fidelity to tradition ; but there was a special cause for it in the circumstances of the intellectual system of the town, and, indeed, of that whole region of the North of Scotland, of which the town was the natural capital. The School was the main feeder of the adjacent Marischal College and University of the city of Aberdeen, and it also sent pupils annually, though not in such great numbers, to the other neighbouring University and King's College, Old Aberdeen. Those two Universities, now united into one, were the Universities to which, for geographical reasons, all the scholarly youths of that northern or north-eastern region of Scotland which lay beyond the ranges of attraction of the other three Scottish Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews, were naturally drawn. Whatever young man looked forward to a University education in this extensive region—of which Aberdeenshire itself and the adjacent county of Kincardine formed the heart, but which had Forfarshire, Banffshire, Morayshire, Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, and even more distant northerly parts, for its fringes—thought of Aberdeen, and of one or other of its two Universities, as his destination while that education should be going on. The tendency from the Highland, and generally from the more northerly districts, was rather to King's College, while from Aberdeen itself, the eastern and lowland parts of Aberdeenshire, and from Kincardineshire and Forfarshire, the tendency was rather to Marischal College. But, to whichever of the two Universities the



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Photomicro by James A. Hill, Chicago

From the Portrait by Cassatt

Your most obedt Servt
James Melvin

predisposition might be, the possibility of giving effect to it was, for many who cherished it, a matter of long preliminary anxiety. There were in that region of North Britain many well-to-do families, perfectly able to send their sons to either of the two Aberdonian Colleges, or even, if they so preferred, to Edinburgh or either of the English Universities; but in that region, more perhaps than in any other even of North Britain, there has always been a numerous class of whom it may be said, in Sydney Smith's sense, *Musam tenui meditantur avena*, "They cultivate the Muse, or the best rough Muse they find accessible, on a little oatmeal." In other words, the ambition after a University education existed among a wider and poorer class in that region than is found to cherish a similar ambition elsewhere. The town of Aberdeen is included in this statement. The notion of a University education as possible descended very far down indeed among the ranks of that community—far below the level of those families who could sustain by their own means the very moderate expense that was necessary with the University actually at their doors. To what is this to be attributed? Partly, if you so choose, to the breed of the folk; but considerably, at least, to a more palpable social cause. This desire for a University education exists there so widely, penetrates there so deep down in society, because in that region, more than in any other part of Great Britain, the means have existed from time immemorial for gratifying the desire.

That part of Scotland has long had a peculiarity, of which I have often thought that the whole British world ought to hear, despite its natural antipathy to overabundant information respecting uncouth Scottish matters. That peculiarity is its Bursary System: I say *is*, for I hope it still exists. But what is a bursary, and what is or was the Bursary System of that Aberdonian region of Scotland? A bursary, in Scottish academic phraseology, is what a scholarship or exhibition is in English—a small annual stipend granted to a young man going to college out of funds bequeathed for the purpose, and tenable by him while he is at college. All the Scottish Universities have such bursaries at their disposal, founded by lovers of

learning in past centuries ; but the two Aberdeen Universities were peculiar in this (St. Andrews alone, I think, coming near them in the practice), that the greater number of the bursaries were put up annually for open competition to all comers. There were more private bursaries in the gift of certain families, or of the professors, and bestowable by favour, or on the bearers of certain names ; but each of the two colleges—King's and Marischal—had about twenty public bursaries to be disposed of every October by open competition. The bursaries were of small amounts, ranging from £5 a year to £20 a year ; but, invariably, by the terms of the foundation, each bursary more than covered all the expenses of the college classes. Now, it was this Bursary System—as familiarly known over the whole region concerned as the Aurora Borealis in its nightly sky—it was this Bursary System that had generated and that sustained there a habit of looking forward to a University education among classes in which otherwise such a habit could have hardly been possible. Though the well-to-do youths in the town or in the country around might not care for a bursary, save for the honour—and it *was* reputed an honour, and, when obtained, was kept as such by many to whom it could have been of no substantial consideration—yet for a scholarly boy of poor family in one of the third-rate streets of Aberdeen, or for a poor farmer's son on Don-side, following his father's plough and dreaming of a college life as the furrow came to the field's edge, the thought that would murmur to his lips would still be "A bursary : O for a bursary !" With many their going or not going to college depended on their winning or not winning, at the proper time, this coveted prize.

One can see what influence such an agency might have been made to exercise over the schooling and intellectual activity of the region within which it operated—how, just as the India and Civil Service Competitions have affected the education of the whole country in these days, and swayed it in particular directions according to the subjects set for the competitions, so, on a smaller scale, even the frugal Bursary System of the North-east of Scotland might have been managed so as to stimulate,

within its range of action, not one but many kinds of study. After the time of which I now speak, there *was* a change to this effect in the administration of the bursaries, and they were conferred after an examination testing proficiency of different kinds. But down to the time with which I have here to do the competition for bursaries at both colleges was solely in Latin, and even mainly in one peculiar practice of Latin scholarship—that of turning a piece of English into Latin. The competition took place with great ceremony every October in the halls of the two colleges. All who chose might come, and no questions were asked. A lad from Cornwall or from Kent, who had never been in Aberdeen before, might have entered the hall on competition-day, taken his place with the rest, and fought for a bursary with whatever force of Cornwall Latin or of Kent Latin was in him. The temptation was not such, however, as to attract many such outsiders; and it was generally some forty Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire, Forfarshire, Banffshire, or Highland lads, out of about one hundred and sixty who had assembled in Aberdeen for the competition, that were made happy by obtaining the bursaries of the year. But, as it was by skill in Latin that the feat was to be done, one can see what a powerful premium was thus put on Latinity all over the territory interested. Even the common parish schools of the region gave some attention to Latin, and any parish school that had within twelve years or so sent two or three lads to Aberdeen who had been successful in obtaining bursaries had celebrity on that account. Naturally, however, even if a country lad began his Latin with his own parish schoolmaster, he would, if possible, finish with a year or two at the grammar school of the nearest town. There were several such grammar schools of some distinction in that far-north region; and Old Aberdeen had a grammar school of its own, acting more expressly as a feeder to King's College. But Aberdeen Grammar School proper, the grammar school of the main city, was the school of greatest note. And so, on the whole, if the school had been aboriginally a Latin School, this influence of the bursary system, in the centre of which it was situated, had helped to make it more and more tenacious of its original

character. It was a case, I doubt not, partly of cause and partly of effect.

How far back in time the influence of the bursary system had been in operation in the territory I do not know ; but I should not wonder if it were to turn out, on investigation, that some form of the influence had to do with what is, at all events, the fact—that for more than two centuries Aberdeen and the region around had had a special reputation in Scotland for eminence in Latinity. The greatest Scottish Latinist, or at least Latin poet, after Buchanan, had been Arthur Johnston, born near Aberdeen in 1587, and educated at Marischal College ; his *Parerga*, *Epigrammata*, and other Latin poems were first given to the world, between 1628 and 1632, from the Aberdeen printing-press ; and among his fellow-contributors to the famous *Delitiæ Poetarum Scotorum*, or collection of Latin poems by living or recently deceased Scottish authors, printed at Amsterdam in 1637, several of the best, after himself, were also Aberdonians and Marischal College men. From that time Aberdeen had kept up the tradition of Latin scholarship.

My readers may like to know what was the expense of education at this Aberdeen Grammar School about which and its connection with a paltry bit of the land of oatmeal I have been making so absurd a fuss. Ten shillings and sixpence a quarter for each boy—that was the expense. Even that was grumbled at by some as too dear, and it was a rise from what had formerly been the rate. Ten shillings and sixpence a quarter for the very best classical school education that was to be had, for love or money, in all that area of Scotland ! The wealthiest and most aristocratic parent, if he kept his son on the spot, could not, by any device, do better for him in the way of schooling than send him to precisely this school—the historical school of the place. The sons of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, were there mixed—all on the equal platform of ten and sixpence a quarter ; save that, if a boy was lucky enough to be called Dun, he paid nothing. Add six and sixpence a quarter for attendance at Mr. Craigmyle's writing school, and six and sixpence a quarter for attendance at Mr. James Gordon's mathematical

school—at which two public schools it was usual for the Grammar School boys to take instruction at separate hours—and you have the almost total school expense for each boy as under five-and-twenty shillings a quarter. Extras, such as French, German, fencing, music, and other kickshaws, were then very rare indeed in Aberdeen; they were to be had, I know, but it was as turtle and champagne were to be had. As for dancing, Heaven only knows how Aberdeen boys, whom I have since seen reel-dancing magnificently as full-grown men in Hanover Square Rooms, came by the rudiments of that accomplishment. I believe it was done by many at dead of night, on creaky floors in out-of-the-way places in the Gallowgate, with scouts on the look-out for the clergy. The only difference, in the matter of expense, between the wealthier and the poorer boys attending the Grammar School was that the former generally had private tutors, who went to their houses in the evening to assist them in preparing their lessons. Such supplementary private tuition was cheap enough. A guinea a quarter for each evening hour so spent was what many a Divinity student was glad to get; and two guineas a quarter was the maximum. It is a curious illustration what differences of tariff there might be in those pre-railway days between portions of the country not far distant from each other, that the rate of payment for exactly the same kind of private tuition in Edinburgh was then two guineas a month, or three times the Aberdeen rate. By a migration from Aberdeen to Edinburgh, if it could be managed and pupils bespoken, an Aberdonian dependent on teaching might at once triple his income. This attraction did operate, among other things, in luring Aberdonians southwards—an unfortunate thing for England; for, once in Edinburgh, the Pict might not stop there.

But my hero is waiting. A word or two more from Byron shall introduce him. "The Grammar School," says Byron in his reminiscences of his Aberdeen boyhood, "might consist of a hundred and fifty of all ages under age. It was divided into five classes, taught by four masters, the chief teaching the fourth and fifth himself."

ave that the total number of pupils had increased to two

hundred, or even latterly to between two hundred and three hundred, this succinct description of the Aberdeen Grammar School in Byron's time holds true of it at the time over which my recollection extends. The three under-masters then were Mr. Watt, Mr. Forbes, and Mr. John Dun. Watt and Forbes, or, as they were called, irreverently, "Wattie" and "Chuckle," were two old men—the one white-haired and feeble, the other tougher, leaner, and with a brown wig—whose days of efficiency, which may have begun with the century, were now over. As each of the under-masters carried his class on for three years continuously, and then handed it over as the fourth class to the care of the chief master or Rector, himself going back to receive the new entrants, it was not uncommon for careful parents to keep back their boys till it was Mr. Dun's turn to assume the first class. He was a much younger man than the other two, kept splendid order, and was, indeed, a most excellent teacher. His class was usually twice or three times as large as that of Forbes or Watt—commencing at eighty or ninety strong in the first year, and always debouching at the end of the third year into the Rector's charge not only well kept up in numbers, but so well trained that each third year's wave of "Dun's scholars," as they were called, was welcomed by the Rector as his most hopeful material.

The name of this Rector of the Aberdeen Grammar School was Dr. James Melvin. For some years of his connection with the School he had been but James Melvin, A.M.; but the degree of LL.D. had been conferred on him by Marischal College. He was also a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, and on rare occasions would occupy the pulpit for one of his friends; but he did not usually figure as a clergyman or place the designation "The Rev." before his name. Living in Belmont Street, close by the Grammar School, with his good old mother and his devoted sister presiding over his bachelor household—a very conspicuous member of which was a splendid and sagacious Newfoundland dog called Cæsar—he stepped over to the school every morning, Cæsar bounding before him as far as the school gate; there he spent three hours every forenoon, and again two hours every

afternoon, in teaching the two senior classes in the right-hand back class-room ; and, during each winter session at Marischal College, he did additional duty as Lecturer in Latin ("Lecturer in Humanity" was the official title, according to that strange hyperbole of our forefathers which viewed Latin as "*Literæ Humaniorum*," the literature of the more civilised folks)—a post to which he had been appointed in consequence of there being at that time no regular or endowed Latin chair among the college professorships. In this simple but not unlaborious round of duties—from his house in Belmont Street to the School, from the School to the College, from the College or School back to his house in Belmont Street, where he would generally have the evenings all to himself in his library—was Melvin's life passed. And yet it is in this man, thus plainly circumstanced in his native place, and whose name can hardly have reached England, though some fame of him since his death has spread into the south of Scotland, that I would seek to interest the reader. My best reason is that he is still of unique interest to me. I have known many other men since I knew him—men of far greater celebrity in the world, and of intellectual claims of far more rousing character than belongs to Latin scholarship ; but I have known no one, and I expect to know no one, so perfect in his type as Melvin. Every man whose memory is tolerably faithful can reckon up those to whom he is himself indebted ; and, trying to estimate at this moment the relative proportions of influences, from this man and from that man encountered by me, which I can still feel running in my veins, it so happens that I can trace none more distinct, however it may have been marred and muddied, than that stream which, as Melvin gave it, was truly "honey-wine." It is long, at all events, since I vowed that some time or other I would say something publicly about Melvin. For I know no other notion of historical, or any literature, worth a farthing, than that which rules that the matter of which it consists shall always be matter interesting to the writer, and *previously unknown* to the reader.

Melvin, it is now the deliberate conviction of many besides myself, was at the head of the Scottish Latinity of

his day. How he had attained to his consummate mastery in the Latin tongue and literature—how, indeed, amid the rough and hasty conditions of Scottish intellectual life, there could be bred a Latin scholar of his supreme type at all—is somewhat of a mystery. In England, with her longer classical school-drilling, protracted to a later age than in Scotland, and then with her system of University Residence, and her apparatus of College Fellowships to bring scholarship to its rarest flower, the development and maintenance of a style of profound and exact scholarship which Scotland cannot rival, save in a few exceptional instances, is to be expected. And the fact, more especially in Greek learning, corresponds with the expectation. But there *are* exceptional instances—instances of Scotsmen, and not Scotsmen only that have been at the English Universities, who by private labour aiding a natural bent of genius, have, in Latinity at least, carved themselves up to even the English standard of exquisiteness, albeit something of a national type may still be discerned in the cast of their Latinity, and it may be recognised as the Latinity of the countrymen of Buchanan, Johnston, and Ruddiman. In later times the bent of natural genius that could in any case lead to such a result must have been very decided, and the labour great and secret. In the case of Melvin I can suppose nothing else than that the traditional muse of Aberdonian Latinity, still hovering about the region and loth to quit it, became incarnate in him at his birth, by way of securing a new lease of residence. The ascertainable incidents of his life, at least, are no sufficient explanation. Born in Aberdeen, of poor parents, in 1794, he had passed through the Grammar School a few years after Byron had left it—his teachers there being a Mr. Nicoll and the then Rector, Mr. Cromar; he had gone thence to Marischal College as the first bursar of his year; and, after leaving college, he had been usher at a private academy at Udny, near Aberdeen, and then undermaster in Old Aberdeen Grammar School, where the chief master was a Mr. McLauchlan, of some note as a Celtic and classical scholar. In 1822 he had been invited by his old master, Nicoll, then in declining health, to be his assistant in the Aberdeen Grammar School; and, on Nicoll's death,

he had been appointed to succeed him, after a public competition in which he distanced the other candidates and won extraordinary applause from the judges. The Rector, Cromar, dying in 1826, Melvin, though the youngest under-master, had again, in public competition, won the unanimous appointment; and on the 24th of April in that year—in one of those assemblies of the city magistrates, city clergy, college professors, and other dignitaries, not forgetting the red-coated town's officers, which took place in the main schoolroom, to the great delight of the boys, on gala days, and always at the annual Visitation and distribution of prizes—he was installed, at the age of thirty-two, into the post which was to be his till death. The office may have been worth £250 a year. His appointment to the Latin lectureship in Marischal College, which may have been worth £80 a year more, came soon afterwards.

Whatever start he may have had in the lessons of Nicoll and Cromar, and whatever firmer grasp of rudimentary Latin he may have got in teaching it at Udney and under McLauchlan in Old Aberdeen, Melvin's scholarship must have been the result of an amount of reading for himself utterly unusual in his neighbourhood. The proof of this exists in the superb library, one of the wonders of Aberdeen, which, even with his moderate means, he had managed to collect around him. There was nowhere in that part of Scotland, probably nowhere in all Scotland, such another private library of the classic writers and of all commentaries, lexicons, scholiasts, and what not, appertaining to them. To see him in his large room in Belmont Street, every foot of the wall-space of which, from the floor to the ceiling, and even over the door and between the windows, was occupied with books filling the exactly-fitted book-shelves, was at once a treat and a revelation to a native of those parts. And the collection of this library must have been begun early in his life. His surviving sister, who was considerably his junior, says that her first recollections are "not so much recollections of him as of books and him." From the first he had catalogues of books sent to him from all quarters, and he was always purchasing. He had complete sets of

the fine old editions of the Latin classics, Dutch and English, with some of the later German ; and his collection of Mediæval Latin literature was probably the completest in Scotland. The most obscure and out-of-the-way names were all represented. In Greek literature his collection was nothing like so full ; there were even extraordinary gaps in it. Among the Latins he abounded most in editions of Horace—having, as he once told a friend, a copy of Horace for every day in the year. And so, among these Latin classics, and the commentators and grammarians of all ages illustrating them, he had read and read, till, at the time of his appointment to the Grammar School Rectorship, his knowledge of Latinity was probably already more extensive, original, deep, subtle, and delicate than that of any other scholar within the limits of North Britain.

A slight monument of the style of Melvin's Latin scholarship, and especially, as a competent critic has said, of the *curiosa diligentia* in minute matters for which he was remarkable, remains in a Latin Grammar which he compiled for the School soon after his appointment to it, and which was used in the School incessantly, from the lowest classes upwards, as supplementary to the Rudiments. This Grammar, which went through three editions, consists, in the first place, of a series of rules in Etymology and Prosody, all in Latin Hexameters, partly made by Melvin, partly mended and borrowed by him from preceding grammars of the kind—the whole of which had to be got by heart gradually by the boys. The Latin rules, however, are bedded in an explanatory English text elucidating obscure points and giving additional information. Then—at least in the edition now before me—there are occasional critical footnotes, correcting or questioning the views of former grammarians as to the genders, declensions, quantities, &c., of particular words. From these footnotes I will cull a few morsels that seem especially Melvinian :—

Gender of Homo.—"The authority of Plautus has been alleged to prove that *Homo* may be used with a feminine adjective : *Hominis miseræ misereri*, Cist. IV. 2. 21. But the passage thus quoted is corrupt. Correct editions

have, *Homines misere miseri*. I should not have mentioned this mistake, which has long ago been exposed by Vossius, had it not found its way into Ainsworth's Dictionary, and been suffered to remain in the latest editions. It is much to be regretted that a book in such general use should abound, as it does, with such inaccuracies. But even the best Dictionaries—those of Gesner, Forcellini, Scheller, &c.—though certainly they do not deceive the unwary consulter by such citations, are not in every instance correct in marking the genders of nouns. In justice to Ainsworth, it must be added, that the original edition of his Dictionary, in 1736, the only one that he superintended, is not disgraced by the erroneous quotation here noticed, and is also free from several of the other blunders which subsequent editions, though otherwise improved, are found to contain."

The word Pollen.—"After the most diligent research, I have not been able to determine with certainty either the termination or the gender of *pollen*. Ruddiman quotes *pollen* as used by Celsus (V. 19. § 4); and so indeed some editions have it; but in others, and those the most correct, there is no such word. Priscian says that Probus and Cæsar declined it *pollen,-inis*, neut. Charisius, according to the same Priscian, makes it *pollis,-inis*, fem.; but Phocas says it is *pollis,-inis*, masc., like *sanguis*. In Isidorus (XX. 2.), we find *polles*, which seems to be a mistake, but whether for *pollen*, or *pollis*, is uncertain. Some of the ancient Glossaries have it *pollinis,-is*, masc. Cato, Pliny, and Mela use *pollinem* as the accusative, but in what gender, or from what nominative, cannot be known. Serenus, a poet of little authority, has *madida polline*."

Ablative singular of Par.—"Vossius, Messieurs de Port Royal, Ruddiman, and many others, say that the masc. or fem. substantive *par* has in the abl. *pare* only; in proof of which two poetical authorities are produced. Some also confound *par*, com. gen. (an equal, a mate, &c.) with *par*, neut. (a pair). But they are two distinct words; and, in prose, have both *pari*. Thus: *Cum illo tuo pari*, Cic. Pis. 8. § 18. *Sine pari*, Plin. VIII. 21. § 33. *In ejusmodi pari*, Cic. Pis. 12. § 27, &c. But the com.-gen. word has sometimes *ē*; as, *Cum pare contendere*, Sen. de Ira, II. 34. § 1."

Spondaic Alcmanian Tetrameters in Horace.—"This ['Mensorem cohibent archyta'] is the only instance in Horace of a Spondee for the third foot of the Alcmanian Tetrameter; though unskilful Prosodians find another in the following line of the same poet (Od. I. 28. 24.),

Ossibus et capiti inhumato.

But it is to be observed that the first two syllables of *inhūmato* are short, and that the verse is to be scanned without eliding the *i* of *capiti*; thus,

ōssibūs | ēt cāpī- | -tī inhū- | -mātō."

Scanning of Latin Sapphics.—"As the division of a simple word often occurs between the third Sapphic and the Adonic, Dr. Carey conceives that the stanza was intended to consist only of three lines, the Adonic being added to the third Sapphic, with the fifth foot of the long verse either a spondee or a trochee. To this union, however, there exists this objection, that final vowels, and even final *m* with its accompanying vowel, will thus be frequently preserved from elision; in Horace's Sapphic Odes, for example, four several times.—(Od.—I. 2. 47.—I. 12. 7.—ibid. 31.—I. 22. 15.) Now,

there is no instance of neglected elision in any other part of Horace's Sapphics; and but *three* unquestionable examples of such neglect in *all* his other odes, and *no* example where *m* is concerned, the asynartetic verse (No. 32) in Epode XI. not being taken into account."

During our three years in the under-classes we saw Melvin only incidentally and on the weekly gatherings of the whole school in the public schoolroom, when the fact that he wore a gown and kept his hat on, while the other three masters were without gowns and had their hats off, greatly impressed the young ones. His authority over the other masters was never made in the least apparent, but it was felt to exist; and there was always an awful sense of what might be the consequences of an appeal to him in a case of discipline. No such appeal, in my day, from Watt or Forbes (Mr. Dun required to make none) ever ended in anything more serious than a public verbal rebuke; but that was terrible enough. For the aspect of the man—then in the prime of manhood, lean, but rather tall and well-shouldered, and with a face of the pale-dark kind, naturally austere, and made more stern by the marks of the small-pox—was unusually awe-compelling. The name "Grim," or, more fully, "Grim Pluto," had been bestowed upon him, after a phrase in one of the lessons, by one of his early classes; and this name was known to all the School. When he entered the school-gate, the whisper in the public-school would be, "Here's Grim"; and, as he walked through the School into his own class-room, looking neither right nor left, with his gold watch-chain and seals dangling audibly as he went, all would be hushed. And yet, with all this fear of him, there was affection, and a longing to be in his classes, to partake of that richer and finer instruction of which we heard such reports.

When one did pass into the Rector's immediate charge, one came to know him better. The great awe of him still remained. Stricter or more perfect order than that which Melvin kept in the two classes which he taught simultaneously it is impossible to conceive. But it was all done by sheer moral impressiveness, and a power of rebuke, either by mere glance or by glance and word together, in which he was masterly. As a born ruler of boys, Arnold himself cannot have surpassed Melvin. And, though there were

wanting in Melvin's case many of those incidents that must have contributed to the complete veneration with which the Rugby boys looked at Arnold—the known reputation of the man, for example, in the wide world of thought and letters beyond the walls of the school—yet, so far as personal influence within the school was concerned, there was in Melvin some form of almost all those things that we read of in Arnold as tending to blend love more and more, on closer intimacy, with the first feeling of reverence. Integrity and truthfulness, conjoined with a wonderful considerateness, were characteristic of all he said and did. His influence was so high-toned and strict that, even had he taught nothing expressly, it would have been a moral benefit for a boy to have been within it. It did one good even to look at him day after day as he sat and presided over us. As he sat now, in his own class-room, always with his hat off, one came to admire more and more, despite his grim and somewhat scarred face, the beauty of his finely-formed head, the short, black hair of which, crisping close round it, defined its shape exactly, and made it more like an ideal Roman head than would have been found on any other shoulders in a whole Campus Martius of the Aberdonians. One un-Roman habit he had—that of snuff-taking. But, though he took snuff in extraordinary quantities, it was, if I may so say, as a Roman gentleman would have taken it—with all the dignity of the toga, and every pinch emphatic.

In that teaching of Latin which Melvin perseveringly kept to as his particular business, a large portion of the work of his classes consisted, of course, of readings in the Latin authors in continuation of what had been read in the junior classes. Here, unless perchance he began with a survey of the Grammar, to see how we were grounded, and to rivet us afresh to the rock, we first came to perceive his essential peculiarities. Accuracy to the last and minutest word read, and to the nicest shade of distinction between two apparent synonyms, was what he studied and insisted on, and this always with a view to the cultivation of a taste for pure and classic, as distinct from Brummagem, Latinity. The authors chosen were few and select—chiefly Cæsar and Livy among the prose writers,

and Virgil, Horace, and Buchanan's Psalms among the poets. The quantity read was not large—seldom more than a page a day. But every sentence was gone over at least five times—first read aloud by the boy that might be called on; then translated, word for word, with the utmost literality, each Latin word being named as the English equivalent was fitted to it; then rendered as a whole somewhat more freely and elegantly, but still with no permission of that slovenly and soul-ruining practice of translation which is called “giving the spirit of the original”; then analysed etymologically, each important verb or noun becoming the text for an exercise up and down, backwards and forwards, in all appertaining to it; and lastly construed, or analysed in respect of its syntax and idiom, the reasons of its moods, cases, and what not. In the case of a poetical reading there was, of course, the farther process of the scanning, in which Melvin was, above all, exacting. To the common reproach against Scottish scholarship, that Scotsmen have no grounding in quantities, and say *vectigal* or *vectigal*, just as Providence may direct them at the moment—the Aberdeen Grammar School, at least, was not liable. A false quantity was even more shameful in Melvin's code than a false construction, and it was not his fault if we did not turn out good Prosodians. Of course, in the readings, whether from the prose writers or the poets, occasion was taken by Melvin to convey all sorts of minute pieces of elucidative, historical, and biographical information, in addition to what the boys were expected to have procured for themselves in the act of preparation; and in this way a considerable amount of curious lore—about the Roman calendar, the Roman wines and the ways of drinking them, &c.—was gradually and accurately acquired. Never, either, did Melvin leave a passage of peculiar beauty of thought, expression, or sound, without rousing us to a sense of this peculiarity, and impressing it upon us by reading the passage himself, eloquently and lovingly, so as to give effect to it. Over a line like Virgil's description of the Cyclopes working at the anvil,

“Illi inter sese magnâ vi brachia tollunt,”

he would linger with real ecstasy, repeating it again and again with something of a tremble of excitement in his grave voice.

Perhaps, however, it was in expounding his favourite Horace that he rose oftenest to what may be called the higher criticism. It was really beautiful to hear him dissect a passage in Horace, and then put it together again thrillingly complete. Once or twice he would delight us by the unexpected familiarity of an illustration of a passage in Horace by a parallel passage from Burns. The unexpected familiarity I have called it; for, though his private friends knew how passionately fond he was of Burns, how he had his poems by heart, and often on his lips, and was moreover learned in Scottish poetry and the old Scottish language generally, this was hardly known in the School, and it gave us a start to hear our Rector suddenly quoting Scotch. It gave him a pleasure, I believe, which he could not have resisted at the moment though the glee of the class had become uproar, to link his darling Horace with his darling Burns, and to remind us that, if Horace, in his "O Fons Bandusiae," had said—

"Fies nobilium tu quoque fontium,
Me dicente cavis impositam ilicem
Saxis, unde loquaces
Lymphæ desiliunt tuæ,"

the Scottish Bard, without consulting Horace, had had the same thought :

"The Ilissus, Tiber, Thames, and Seine,
Glide sweet in mony a tunefu' line ;
But, Willie, set your fit to mine,
And cock your crest ;
We'll gar *our* streams and burnies shine
Up wi' the best."

On the whole, however, Melvin's teaching of Latin was strictly philological. He did not lead us over a great deal of ground in our readings, and he kept carefully to the track of what we did read. He did not belabour us with vast masses of lax information about the Romans, nor branch out into speculative disquisitions on the philo-

sophy of literature and things in general. His aim was, by the intense accuracy of our reading in a well-arranged course of progressive difficulty, both to drill us to accuracy in all intellectual matters whatever, and to put us in perfect possession of the instrument of Latin, should we care afterwards to use it for ourselves.

To test the degree in which we possessed the instrument, there was in the Aberdeen Grammar School an amount of practice in Latin composition such as, I believe, was known at that time in no other school in North Britain. Almost from the first class we were practised in making Latin sentences, and even in constructing sentences to be turned into Latin, with which publicly to puzzle each other. And very soon, in addition to the printed Exercise-Books of this kind which we used, there came into play the agency of what were called "Versions"—i.e., pieces of English expressly prepared by the Master to be dictated to us in the class-room and there turned into Latin. But it was in Melvin's classes that this practice of Version-making—having reference, no doubt, to the peculiar arrangements of that competition for the bursaries of the two Universities of which I have spoken—attained its fullest development. He did not tax us much in the way of Latin versification—which was reserved rather for his Marischal College classes; but our practice in Latin prose-composition was incessant. Two entire days in every week were regularly devoted to "the Versions"; and these were the days of keenest emulation. In anticipation of them, it was our habit to jot down in note-books of our own, divided alphabetically, and with index-margins for the leading words, any specialities of phrase or idiom—any niceties about *Ut*, *Quum*, *Quod* and *Quia*, *Ille* and *Iste*, *Uter* and *Quis*, *Suus* and *Ejus*, *Plerique* and *Plurimi*, and the like—upon which Melvin dwelt in the course of our readings. With these manuscript "phrase-books" or "idiom-books" (containing, doubtless, much that might have been found in print, but precious as compiled by ourselves), and with Ainsworth's Dictionary for our authorised guide under certain rather numerous cautions and restrictions, we assembled on the morning of every Version-Day;

and, sure enough, in the piece of English which Melvin then dictated to us—which was always a model of correct style and punctuation, and generally not uninteresting in matter—there were some of the traps laid for us against which he had been recently warning us. We sat and wrote the versions—those who were done first (generally the first-faction boys) going up to Melvin's desk to have them examined; after which, they became his assistants in examining the other versions, so as to clear them all off within the day.

In these versions into Latin, as in the translations from the Latin, closeness to the original was imperative—no fraudulent “giving of the spirit of the original,” so as to elude the difficulty presented by the letter, was tolerated for a moment. The system of marking was peculiar. You were classed, not by your positive merits of ingenuity, elegance, or such like, but, as in the world itself, by your freedom from faults or illegalities. There were three grades of error: the *minimus*, or, as we called it, the *minie*, which counted as 1, and which included misspellings, wrong choices of words, &c.; the *medius* or *medie*, which counted as 2, and included false tenses and other such slips; and the *maximus* or *maxie*, which counted as 4, and included wrong genders, a glaring indicative for a subjunctive, &c. There might, in a single word, be even (horrible event!) a double *maxie*, or a combination of *maxie* and *medie*, or *maxie* and *minie*. On a *maxie* in the version of a good scholar Melvin was always cuttingly severe. “*Ut dixit*,” he would say, underscoring the two words, in a sentence where the latter should have been *diceret*—“*Ut dixit*,” he would repeat, refreshing his frown with a pinch of snuff—“*Ut dixit*,” he would say a third time, with a look in the culprit's face as if he had murdered his father, “Oh, William, William, you have been very giddy of late;” and William would descend crestfallen, and be miserable for half a day. So thoroughly was this gradation of *maxie*, *medie*, and *minie* worked into us that I believe it became identified permanently with our notions of the nature of things, and I question whether there is a Melvinian abroad in the world now that does not classify sins and social

crimes as *minies*, *medies*, and *maxies*. On our versions, at all events, the sum-total of the errors, so graduated, was marked at the top; and we took our places accordingly. Only between two versions coequal in respect of freedom from fault was any positive merit of elegance allowed to decide the superiority; and if, among two or three versions of the first-faction boys that were passed as *sine errore*, one was declared *sine errore elegantissime*, you may fancy whether the top-boy that owned it did not feel like a peacock. But, when Melvin dictated his own Latin next day, to be written in our version-books after the English, then the difference between *our* best and *his* ordinary would be at once apparent.

In preparing the "Versions" for his classes Melvin was most conscientious. Nothing vexed him more than, through some rare press of engagements, to be obliged to dictate an old version a second time. They used to see, at home, by his face, when this was the case. Every year he prepared about a hundred versions, so that altogether he must have left in manuscript between two and three thousand. The fame of them had gone abroad through Scotland in his lifetime, and some, taken from stray Version-Books of his old pupils, were unscrupulously appropriated and printed without acknowledgment in his later years.

From what has been said, it will be seen how it was that the sole objection ever made to Melvin's method of teaching by those who were acquainted with it took the form of a question whether it was not too narrow, too pertinaciously old-fashioned, too little according to the newest lights. For myself, though I can conceive another method or other methods of teaching Latin than Melvin's, which should be also good, I am persuaded that not only was his method admirably perfect for its end, but also that no method that did not aim as resolutely at the same end by a considerable use of the same means would be worth much in the long run. At all events, Melvin's method was deliberately adopted by him, and, though in accordance with his nature, yet not perhaps without some cost of self-repression. The Melvin that we came afterwards to know in his own house and library, for example, had many tastes and interests of an intellectual kind that

one could hardly have surmised in the Melvin of the Grammar School. I have already mentioned his fondness for old Scottish poetry, and his expertness in the Scottish dialect; and I find that, as early as 1825, when he was still only under-master in the School, he had rendered such services to Jamieson, in connection with the two-volume Supplement to his Dictionary of the Scottish Language published in that year, as to obtain rather distinguished notice among the acknowledgments of help in the Preface to that work. But as he kept to himself to the last, as one of his private recreations, this knowledge of Scottish philology, so even of his Latin philology it was but a sifting of the purest wheat that he gave to his pupils. Though, in instructing them, he drew Latin only from what he considered the wells of Latin undefiled, his own erudition was vast in the Latin literature of all styles and epochs. He had in his library, as I have said, an extraordinary collection of the Mediæval Latinists; and though, in the class-room, we had come to regard Plautus, poor fellow, as little better than an abomination, on account of his perpetually misleading us in the matter of deponent verbs, I have no doubt that, by himself, Melvin enjoyed Plautus as much as any one. Then, his excursions among the Grammarians, and in the History of modern Latinity, were, on the whole, unknown to us. We had the results, but of the masses of material we heard but little. Of his admiration for Buchanan we were made fully aware, because Buchanan's Psalms chanced to be amongst the books read, and the beauty of his Latinity became a subject of comment; but of Arthur Johnston, the Aberdonian, whom he also admired, we heard only incidentally; and I do not think we could have guessed in the class-room, what was nevertheless the fact, that the modern scholar of whom his admiration was most profound was the English Bentley. In all this there must have been self-repression, and a resolute recollection of the maxim that it is biscuit, rather than strong meat, that suits a beginner.

That so much of Melvin's scholarship died with him, uncommemorated either by any work from his pen in addition to his Grammar, or by any sufficient tradition among his pupils, is a matter for regret. Towards a

Latin Dictionary, on which he was reported to be engaged, and which was certainly thought of by him as a worthy labour of his life, I know not whether he left any materials. The passion for acquisition, I fancy, had conquered in him the desire for production. A living scholar who knew him well has expressed his regret that he did not, at least, give to the world an edition of some classic author which might have preserved some of "those fruits of ripe scholarship and those exquisite morsels of keen and delicate criticism which he had gathered in his long experience"; and the same scholar suggests that Statius, "who is in want of such a service," might have suited the purpose.

There was, however, a third way in which more of Melvin might have been brought out than could be educed by the work of a Grammar School. As he had been Lecturer in Humanity in Marischal College for some ten years before the institution and endowment in that University of a regular Humanity Professorship, and as in that post he *had* given effect to some of the higher developments of Latinity, it was expected in 1839, when the Professorship was actually established and endowed, that his promotion to that post, relieving him from the drudgery of his School-Rectorship, would begin a new era in his life. But the Whigs, then in office, knew nothing of Melvin; and so there was appointed to the new post, instead of Melvin, one of his old pupils, then an Edinburgh barrister—a man to whom the only objection even then was that he had obtained what had been popularly destined for Melvin, and of whom it has to be said since that he has stirred Scotland in many ways by his eccentricities and his genius. And thus, for another spell of years, Melvin, his connection with Marischal College at an end, went between his house in Belmont Street and the School, faithfully doing the duties of his Rectorship. But, again, when he was far on in his fifties, the Professorship became vacant by the transference of its first holder to the University of Edinburgh. This time Melvin's friends made sure that he would be appointed. Many of his pupils were now grown-up and men of local influence, and every exertion was made on his behalf. But again he was set aside. I think it was the Conservatives—Melvin's own

party, so far as he belonged to one—that were then in power. He said little and went on as before; but it was a cruel blow, and they say he never recovered it. Testimonials from old pupils and other public demonstrations attested the sympathy felt for him, and the desire to compensate, as far as possible, for his disappointment. The last testimonial, being a sum of £300 in a silver snuff-box, was presented to him on the 18th of June, 1853, by a deputation, headed by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, who waited on him in his own house. He thanked them feelingly, but was in too feeble health to say much. He had persevered in teaching his classes as usual, but was hardly able to move to and from the School; and his friends were looking forward to the approaching holiday-month of July, during which, as in previous years, he might go into the country to recruit. The boys, respecting his weakness, were less noisy than usual as the holiday time drew near, and, if they were preparing for the usual decoration of the “factions” and school-walls with green branches of trees and crowns and festoons of flowers, made their preparations in quiet. He spoke of this careful kindness of the boys with much pleasure and gratitude. On Monday, the 27th June, he was in his place in the School; but on that day he fainted from exhaustion, and had to be carried home. The next day, Tuesday, the 28th, he died in his house in Belmont Street, aged fifty-nine years.

There is a poem of Browning's, which I read often because it reminds me of Melvin. It is entitled “A Grammarian's Funeral,” and is supposed to be the song sung by the disciples of a great scholar, shortly after the Revival of Learning in Europe, as they are carrying the dead body of their master up from the plain to the high mountain-pinnacle where they mean to bury him. First they tell why they select this lofty eminence for his burying-place—why his honoured body should not repose in the valley; then, marching slowly on to the mountain-side, they chaunt—

“Step to a tune, square chests, erect the head,
 ‘Ware the beholders!
This is our master, famous, calm, and dead,
 Borne on our shoulders.

Sleep, crop and herd ! sleep darkling thorpe and croft,
 Safe from the weather !
 He whom we convoy to his grave aloft,
 Singing together,
 He was a man born with thy face and throat,
 Lyric Apollo !
 Long he lived nameless : how should spring take note
 Winter would follow ? ”

And so, toiling on and up, carrying their burden, they wend at last to the peak which is their destination, still chaunting their master's praises, and telling how to the last, in illness and paralysis, he had never ceased learning and labouring :—

“ So, with the throttling hands of Death at strife
 Ground he at grammar ;
 Still, through the rattle, parts of speech were rife :
 While he could stammer,
 He settled *Hoti's* business—let it be !—
 Properly based *Oun*,
 Gave us the doctrine of the enclitic *De*,
 Dead from the waist down.
 Well, here's the platform, here's the proper place.
 Hail to your purlieus,
 All ye highfliers of the feathered race,
 Swallows and curlews !
 Here's the top-peak ! the multitude below
 Live, for they can, there.
 This man decided not to Live but Know—
 Bury this man there ?
 Here—here's his place, where meteors shoot, clouds form,
 Lightnings are loosened,
 Stars come and go ! let joy break with the storm,
 Peace let the dew send.
 Lofty designs must close with like effects :
 Loftily lying,
 Leave him—still loftier than the world suspects,
 Living and dying.”

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CHAPTER XV

OUR SCHOOL IN THE "THIRTIES"

I HAVE been asked, as a former pupil of the Grammar School, to give a few recollections of the olden time. The task is in some respects a pleasant one, for old men are wont to live more in the past than in the present ; it is even said that they generally become garrulous when they get into the retrospective vein. In my case, however, it is difficult to know where to begin, as well as when to stop. My recollection of the School covers a period of upwards of five-and-sixty years. When I first entered it, there was a very different state of matters from that which now prevails. The school buildings, the text-books used, and the masters that taught, are all changed, not only in their personality, but in their character. It is more than thirty years since the old School in Schoolhill was left for the present very handsome and commodious building. What a contrast between the two ! Our quarters in Schoolhill were of the most limited dimensions. We had four class-rooms and a public school, with furniture of the barest, not to say hardest, kind. No playground existed worthy of the name, so that for any sports that required a little space, we had either to crowd out into the street, or go down to the Denburn. In those days the police were not so exacting as they are now. That Denburn valley, through which the railway runs, was the scene of many a stone fight between the Grammar boys and the boys of the town. From time to time, one would be carried off unconscious from the battlefield. Thanks to the introduction of cricket, football, and other less harmful games, these rough contests are things of the past ; while the pupils have ample room in the spacious grounds that surround the more modern building. Then as to the text-books in use. In the days of the early "thirties" of

the century no English, no Grammar, no History, no Geography were taught at all. For French or German, even for writing and arithmetic, we had to go outside the School, to other teachers as well as other class-rooms. It is true that for some time after entering the first, or lowest, class a chapter of the Bible was read every morning; but that was all the instruction in English that the institution afforded to boys of nine or ten years old. Latin was the only medium through which all mental furniture and training were conveyed. Ruddiman's Rudiments, Melvin's Grammar, Corderius' Colloquies, Cornelius Nepos, and so-called Grammatical Exercises, ending with Cæsar and Ovid, were the text-books for the first three years. But, after all, it is the Master that makes the school. Buildings and books and apparatus may be inferior or superior; the main results will ever depend on the teacher. And looking back to the distant past, I am constrained to say that, as regards the teachers, there is the greatest change for the better. During the first three years of my tuition, I was in the hands of such a teacher¹ as could not now be paralleled throughout broad Scotland. I am glad to say that the species is utterly extinct. He was an old man of quite threescore and ten when I entered his class, and, of course, the process of ageing continued with him, until it came to an end at the close of my third year. The fact of his extreme age will account to a great extent for some of his characteristics, although there was always an individuality about him that must be reckoned with in judging of his capacity for the post of teacher. It may seem strange that any one of such advanced years should have been allowed to retain his situation so long. In point of fact, among the three teachers who were in a sense under the Rector, although virtually independent of him, there was another in my day who was also incapacitated for work on account of advanced years. Only one of the three was in the prime of life and really efficient. But at that time there was no superannuation salary, nothing for an old man to retire and live upon; so that he had to cling to his post, unless he was possessed of private means of subsistence.

¹ James Watt, M.A., 1791; retired from teaching 1835, died 1843. See App. i.

I could fill pages with a narrative of the personal peculiarities of my old pedagogue, and of the tricks which the boys played upon him. Let me just give a sample. Those were the days when a good many whaling vessels, owned by different shareholders, used to sail from Aberdeen. My teacher had an interest in a vessel called *The Dee*; and as the season came round for the return of the ships from Greenland, some boy, who had got early news of the arrival, would announce that *The Dee* was in the bay. This was glad tidings to the Master, and was always followed by the dispersion of the School for the rest of the day. But woe to the luckless youth next morning if, as sometimes happened, the news did not turn out to be true! In the afternoons of the winter months we had, of course, to get artificial light. It need not be said that electricity was unknown in that application of it, but even gas had not yet been introduced into the School. There were big chandeliers, each containing about a dozen candles, that dimly lighted up the surrounding benches. It was great fun to keep these candles going by trimming or, as it was called, "snuffing" the wicks. In the conduct of that operation the boys more frequently snuffed them out than trimmed them—a source of considerable distraction from the lessons that were going on. It must be confessed that playing truant was not unknown in our class, although the Master used to send some one near the top of the class to inquire after the absent one. It was a fruitless inquiry. The boy sent out to see what was the cause of absence met the truant near the School, and, after playing with him for some time, brought back an answer that had been concocted for the occasion, and was accepted as sufficient and true without farther investigation. One thing that used to strike the new scholar very forcibly was the frequent use by the Master of the exclamation "*Bon Dieu*"—only it was always given in plain strong Saxon.

Another peculiarity of the old gentleman was that he was constantly chewing tobacco, in the shape of a fine twist that was sold by a brother of his in Queen Street.¹ We were sometimes sent to the Queen Street shop for a

¹ Patrick Watt, grocer, 79 Queen Street Directory, 1831.

fresh supply when the tobacco failed. But what puzzled us most was the fact that chewed-out "quids" were always deposited in the waistcoat pocket. What their future destiny was we could never discover.

It goes without saying that, under such a teacher, the School discipline was in a very chaotic state. There was certainly no stinted use of the "tawse" in the shape of "pandies," and sometimes that instrument of torture was applied to what has been called "the most muscular part of the person"—a form of punishment on which decency forbids us to enlarge. At the end of my three years the old dominie was obliged to retire because of sheer physical incapacity. His pupils were duly drafted to the Fourth Class, taught by Dr. Melvin. The transition was like the introduction to another world. A mental stimulus was now given to the boys, such as they had never experienced before. And, although nothing could fully compensate for the three years of stagnation which had passed away, it was marvellous to see the change that was wrought by two years of the new *regime* under Dr. Melvin. Only his old pupils can appreciate the thoroughness, the accuracy, the high-toned character of the teaching imparted by that prince of modern Latinists. May the young gentlemen who attend the Grammar School of the present day be proud of their distinguished seminary; and, as they read these hurried reminiscences, may they be thankful for the opportunities which they enjoy in one of Scotland's best secondary schools.

SENEX.

(Rev. James Sutherland, D.D.)

School Magazine, March 1899.

CHAPTER XVI

GRAMMAR SCHOOL DISCIPLINE IN THE OLDEN DAYS

By FATHER WILLIAM HUMPHREY, S.J.

“WHEN all the boys were seated in due order, the master began his correction of the writers in strict accordance with his previous correction of their versions. The first boy who had made a *maximus* error, on hearing his name read out as coupled with that fact, left his place and went to the master’s desk, stood in front of it, and held out his hand, and received on his open palm one ‘pandy,’ if he had made one *maximus* error only. If he had made two, he received two ‘pandies,’ or twenty ‘pandies’ if he had made twenty errors, and so in like proportion in accordance with the strict rule of distributive justice. The ‘pandies’ took their name from *Pande manum*—‘Stretch out your open hand’—and were administered by the master with the ‘tawse,’ from the top step of his desk on which he stood. The ‘tawse’ was a broad leather strap, one end of which was divided into five fingers about six inches long, and these had been scorched in the fire to harden them and make them more stinging. On receiving his allowance, which was given and taken with the utmost calm on both sides, the boy returned to his place and resumed his conversation with his next neighbour. Conversation was general while the whipping went on, and as there were seventy boys in my class, the rest of the afternoon was usually occupied in this way.”

“A case of *portering* certainly occurred during my father’s¹ school days. It was carried out in this way. All the boys in the five classes were solemnly assembled in the

¹ John Humphrey, adv., of Pitmedden, Dyce, left the school for Mar. Coll. in 1825.

Public School. The catalogue was called, and every boy who was present answered to his name *Adsum*, as he had to answer every morning when the catalogue of his class was called in his own class-room. The culprit was then stripped, and mounted entirely naked on the back of the school porter, who marched from end to end of the long room, followed by the Rector, who went on flogging the boy continuously throughout his progress. His clothes were then returned to him, and he was led to the main door, which was opened. From the top of the three or four stone steps which led down into the paved courtyard, he received a kick from the Rector,¹ and the ceremony was complete. A curious incident is connected with the last instance of *portering* of which I have heard. While the boy was being disrobed for the function, he took his knife from his pocket and stabbed himself in the breast. The Rector carefully and kindly examined the wound, and found it to be but trifling. He saw, moreover, that the motive was more histrionic than tragic, and the ceremony proceeded with every solemnity, till it was crowned by the final kick."

From "Recollections of Scottish Episcopalianism."

¹ This part of the "ceremony" was still in use in Dr. Melvin's days.

CHAPTER XVII

"WHEN WE WERE BOYS"

I. THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN "THE EARLY FORTIES"

BY JOHN FORBES WHITE, LL.D.

ALAS ! my recollections must go much further back than those of Sir James Westland,¹ or of my cousin, Mr. John Johnston of Milwaukee,² for I entered the school in October, 1839, under nine years of age. My previous education was got at Mr. James Ledingham's Academy in Correction Wynd, where I learned chiefly reading and writing, with a little English grammar. Schooling was a simple matter in those days. My most vivid recollection of that Academy is connected with the small statuettes cut by a penknife out of a bit of thick slate-pencil by one of the young Duthies, who had seen figureheads carved in his father's shipbuilding yard. These little figures were, I still feel sure, very pretty, and I can recall "Napoleon in his cocked hat, tight breeches, and long boots," while a "Venus de Medici" gave me my first idea of classic sculpture. Do any of these fragments still exist? In them, certainly, was a feeling for the sculptor's art.

By good fortune I entered the Grammar School under the mastership of Mr. James Ogilvie, a young man who ten years before had been First Bursar at Marischal College, and who, in 1837, was appointed interim master of the Grammar School in place of Mr. Forbes. A tall, gaunt man, sallow and saturnine, with prominent nose and black beady eyes, lethargic and slow to move, was "Poker" Ogilvie. But he taught Latin well, and introduced some methods which I doubt whether the Rector knew about, such as the use of Valpy's Latin dialogues for conversation in the Second Class. It was like going back to the old Erasmian system and had its advantages,

¹ See No. IV. below.

² See No. II. below.

for we boys really came to see that Cornelius Nepos and Cæsar had not been invented simply to torture us for some discipline. We had enough of this sort of punishment in the cheerful task of committing Melvin's Rules most slavishly to memory. What boy in after life has not shuddered with horror as he recalls :—

*Hic vultur, vermis, phœnix, thrips, turtur, oryxque,
Mus, lepus, et Coccus, piscis, bombyxque salar, gryps,
Cenchris pro colubro, mugil, dorx, mugilis et seps,
Cossis, glis, echinæis.—At hæc, halex et ædon, &c.*

And all this to tell us that the genders of certain "Epicene" nouns were in some cases masculine and in others feminine. Did any of us know, or care, what an Epicene noun was, and have any of us since in wide reading of Latin authors once met with many of these "brute animals" (as the note calls them)? These rules were driven into us before we knew the difference between a dactyl and a spondee, or knew anything of the swing of a hexameter, and accordingly we recited the first rule—

Omne mærem signans nomen dæcet esse virile.

We could not even translate the line. What a relief it was to us when the string of nouns stopped and the verse ended with "et plurima porro." Then we knew that our troubles were ended.

It is a wonder that intelligence was not killed and scholarship stunted by such a system of teaching. I may safely say that at least one of the three years of our junior course might have been spared for English, with great benefit even to our training in Latin, to say nothing of our general education, which was absolutely *nil*, except for some scraps of history and text-book geography.

Ogilvie was too lazy to use the tawse or cane except under great provocation, or rather from loss of temper. His favourite punishment for a boy in "the top faction" was, even for a whisper, to isolate him from the work of the class, and to put him "to a seat by himself" for hours, perhaps for days. There we learned, in solitary confinement, to plait horsehair fishing-lines by means of quills—a

useful accomplishment—and to catch innumerable flies in the far-off window, and put them 'by themselves' in paper boxes. After many requests to be allowed to return to our place in the class, permission was given to go to the foot, and to work our way up. At times, when the punishment seemed greater than the offence, resistance was forcibly made against ejection, and then came a fight between master and boy, to the detriment of clothes and temper. A small boy with his feet planted against the bench was a stiff obstacle to be pulled out even by a giant. But when we came to the Third Class, a better understanding took place between teacher and pupil, and now Ogilvie shone to advantage. To prepare us for Dr. Melvin, Ogilvie used many of the Doctor's old versions. These he read out sentence by sentence, requiring us to translate into Latin *vivā voce*, telling us any difficult word and explaining our errors on the spur of the moment. He thus secured alertness in composing and made the exercise fresh and living. He carried this to such a fine point that, at the end of the third year, he was so confident as to results that he requested that two of us should try the Bursary Competition at Marischal College. One of us succeeded in gaining the seventh bursary of that year under the age of twelve, but was wisely kept at school for other two years, when the first bursary fell to him.¹

Strange to say, Ogilvie never attained the position of Master in the School. Even in 1843 he was appointed only as Under-Master, in place of Mr. Watt, deceased. In 1844, he resigned his post, having been appointed by the Church of Scotland to take the place of the great Alexander Duff as head of the Educational Institution in Calcutta after the Disruption. Perhaps we did not understand his character fully, but to us boys it seemed a strange appointment that this fine Latin scholar but somewhat lethargic man should be sent to succeed the fervid and fervent missionary. Ogilvie laboured for twenty-five years in Calcutta, never taking a furlough. Towards the end of his life he is said to have been a disappointed man, though he did excellent work and was much respected, receiving the degree of D.D. from the

¹ The writer himself.

University of Aberdeen in 1867. He died in Penang in 1871.

Before entering the Rector's class-room, let us look at the environment of the School. There was no playground, and of course no games in the modern sense. Golf was unknown to us youngsters, and cricket and football were yet a long way off. The small quadrangle in front of the modest one-storied building was mostly paved with cobblestones, which made a good playground for the game of "Buttons"—an excellent game, like "pitch and toss"—which disappeared when gentlemen ceased to wear brass buttons on their coats. "Marbles," of course, were in vogue wherever a hard, flat surface could be found for the superb game of "the ring." "Leap frog," with its extension to "foot and a-half," was a favourite game, the latter played chiefly in the public school for the display of long leaps over a boy's back, a risky game for the boy. "Burry on the factions"¹ was also carried on in the great school, a dangerous sport, as running at full speed on the top of the benches frequently led to serious falls. But the streets were our larger playground. "Key-how" and "Smuggle the gig" (a sort of "hare and hounds"), made us acquainted with every hiding-place in the Mutton Brae, the Denburn, the far off Patagonian Court and the Gaelic Lane, while the traditional snowball and stone fights with the "apprentices" and "Sillerton Boys" gave abundant room for warlike tendencies.

But a few minutes before the school hour there is a pause in all games. A large-framed man with round shoulders, dressed in black, is seen approaching the gate. With head bent forward, and treading lightly on his toes, he advances over the flagstones towards the steps leading to the public school. Even the youngest are hushed to silence as he passes through the crowd. Mark his sallow face, deeply scarred by small-pox, his keen black eye and pursed-up thin lips, the corners of his mouth inclining to a gentle smile or depressed to sternness. We are all conscious that a strong man is by us—the great scholar, Dr. James Melvin, "Grim Pluto." Slowly he takes his place in front of the clock in the public school, draws out his gold hunting watch, compares it with the clock, says a

¹ See p. 199.

few words to the assembled under-masters and then bows to them, after which ceremony each master retires to his own class-room. A short prayer, with some phrases frequently repeated, as: "Where Thy mercies are clean gone for ever," and work begins. What accuracy was required! No paraphrasing allowed, no evading a difficulty. Without doubt, our translation from Latin into English was stiff; nay, sometimes wooden, and certainly the spirit and beauty of a passage were to us of secondary importance. In such a system of minute detail and verbal criticism, free copious reading was impossible, and the enjoyment of Horace or Vergil was not manifest in us. Hence we should have dreaded an "unseen" passage from a Latin author far more than a "Version." We had no ease in our reading, no idea of style. We heard constantly of Cicero, but we never read any of his work. My copy of "Buchanan's Psalms" bears the order of the words dictated to us by the good Doctor for preparation at home on the Saturday evening. Fancy this, after four years wholly given to the study of Latin, when we should have been able to read the Psalms with some freedom for our pleasure on the Sunday.

But it was in analysis and parsing, in the opening up of the various meanings of a verb or noun and their relation to each other, in "phrases" and "idioms," that Melvin excelled. We had no other dictionary than the miserable "Ainsworth," and the Doctor had to clothe its dry bones with living flesh. We made copious notes and indexed our manuscript books so that we might be able to find the examples when wanted. Labour of this sort would be misplaced nowadays. Better Lexicons and ampler notes in text-books set boys free from this drudgery and gave a better chance of enjoying the spirit of an author. What a godsend, for instance, both to teachers and pupils, is Dr. Robert Ogilvie's *Horæ Latinæ*, with its fine distinctions and general principles!

But Melvin was two generations in advance of his time, and did a service to Latin scholarship in Scotland which cannot be over-estimated. The "Phrase and Idiom Books" compiled by his best pupils have circulated over the North of Scotland, forming the basis of much instruc-

tion in regard to syntax. But his living influence was the dominant feature of his class. His personality was tremendous. To be under him was an education in itself, for he moulded the accurate habits of thousands of boys.

"The Version" was of course the main feature of his class. It was carefully constructed to bring out our knowledge (or ignorance) of "the indirect speech," "the interrogative put indefinitely," and all the niceties of *sunt qui, quominus, quin*, and so forth. So earnest was he that it seemed to give him positive pain when a good pupil made some horrid *maxie*, while, on the other hand, it gave him pleasure to write "*sine errore*," and still more when he could add, in his beautiful penmanship, *et elegantissime* at the bottom of a version. His jibes were severe and sarcastic, but the culprit felt that they were deserved. Carelessness and inattention he could not abide, but he dealt lightly with studious mediocrity. That he had favourites is true, but they were the bright boys whose work pleased him and whose errors he grieved over. I can recall no instance of favour for the sons of the rich, if the boys were content to sit habitually near the foot of the class. He had a liking for a boy who would privately defend some alleged error in his version. I remember once writing *humanum genus* instead of *genus humanum*—and this was to be marked as an error. Between school hours I hunted up some defence and found it in Sallust. "Well, I'll let you off this time, but you must take for your guide Cicero rather than Sallust," was his reply. Before the holidays he used to review the work of the previous quarter, and would tell us of the number of *sine errore* versions he had got from former classes. In an evil moment I whispered to my neighbour that this had been the golden age, whereupon he laughed, and I was ordered to speak to the Doctor at the end of the hour. "I want to know what you said to Archibald Simpson."¹ Sheepishly I answered that it was nothing at all worth repeating. "Well," said the Doctor, taking a big pinch of snuff out of his beautiful Scotch mull, "you are not to leave this spot till you tell me what it was." So I told the truth,

¹ M.A., 1847; L.R.C.S. Ed., 1851; M.D., Aberd., 1852; practised at Islington (deceased).

and got a great knock on my ribs from his elbow and the reply, with a pleased smile, "Well, it *was* the golden age." Beneath that stern exterior there beat a manly, loving heart, restrained however in its manifestation, as was the bearing of teachers to pupils in those days. He was a Roman of the Romans, *Ultimus Romanorum*, I should say, and one can easily picture him in the company of Cicero and of Livy, of Vergil and of Horace, the authors whom he loved so well. He liked the old Scottish tongue, and rolled out with gusto on rare occasions the fine verse attributed to Allan Ramsay—

"There I saw Sisyphus wi' muckle wae
Birsin' a big stane up a heich heich brae,
Tryin' to get it up abeen the knowe
Wi' baith his han's and baith his feet. Bit wow!
Fan it's maist deen, back in an awfu' dird
Doon stots the stane and thumps upo' the yird."

Melvin was not a Grecian; but he taught the Greek Grammar well, as he taught everything. We used a wretched Anton's Greek Grammar—the same American Anton whose edition of Horace we generally used and whose notes Melvin inveighed against bitterly for their inaccuracy. The only Greek we read was a few chapters of St. John's Gospel. This simple statement gives the measure of the difference between those past days and modern times as to Greek.

Melvin was a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, and after the Disruption, when every pulpit in the city was bereft of its minister, he used to take his share in supplying the void. A favourite text was, "For it is appointed to all men once to die, and after death the judgment," which gave him an opportunity of expatiating with all his force on the difference between a good life and a bad one. In his holidays, he would spend some time at various country manes, and there, I am told, he was frequently facetious in his Latin jokes.

All honour to his memory! A strong personality, a splendid example of the old grammarian, he laid the foundations for a wider and fuller scholarship in after years and under other influences. To me he represents the School of my time.

Book plates, *ex libris*, are all the fashion now-a-days, and a very pretty fashion it is, to connect our books with our own individuality. Doubtless, many a Grammar School boy now has his favourite books marked by some quaint device. We had nothing exactly of this sort in my early school days, but we were rather in advance of the movement, for our books bore our names and attributes in the manner of the Comic Latin Grammar. The right of property was strenuously maintained, as in

Hic liber est meus, and that I will show,
Si aliquis rapit, I'll give him a blow,
Per Jovem, per bellum, I swear I will fell 'im,
 And into his *ventrem* I'll rap my *scalpellum*,
 And all for the sake of this little *libellum*.

Or in

Hic liber est meus, deny it who can,
Jacobi Thomæ Smith, a right honest man,
 In *Aberdonia* he's to be found,
Si non moriatur—and laid in the ground.

When the name could be written by some clever penman in large German text like that of a diploma, and a more or less fanciful portrait of the owner could be added, a high level was reached. Perfection was attained when a caricature of the teacher found a place in some corner.

Our friendships were close and personal, for the classroom was our Cosmos. These ties lasted through life, and we can look back to these days with pleasure. If the education was absurdly one-sided, and the methods ludicrously imperfect, these were the faults of the time, handed down from former generations. But even in my early days reformers were beginning to throw a searching criticism on an outworn system which could not bear the light of day and was about to expire. Of James Melvin, its most perfect exponent and my honoured master, it may truly be said that he was "*felix opportunitate mortis*."

School Magazine, May 1902.

II. "REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD!"

By JOHN JOHNSTON, M.A., *Vice-President of the Marine National Bank of Milwaukee; President of the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A.*
(A. G. S. 1848-1851).

IN 1848 the schoolmaster of the *quoad sacra* parish of Savoch told my parents that it was time I went into Aberdeen to school, as he did not feel that he could take me any farther in the study of Latin; and on a chilly morning my mother and I took the "Banks of Ythan" coach at Burngrains, and in about three hours we crossed the new Bridge of Don and were feasting our eyes on the wonders of King Street.

It was not quite settled whether I should go to the Gymnasium of Old Aberdeen, or to the Grammar School, but the bursary-winning record of the latter carried the day, and my mother took me to call on Dr. Melvin at his house in Belmont Street.

Being but a twelve-year-old laddie from the country, it was with some trepidation that I was ushered into his library. My recollection is that it was dark and gloomy. It may have been that the gas of the "braif" city of Aberdeen was not so good as it is now, while the book-cases were dark, and the bindings of the books seemed all dark. There were certainly none of the gilt and tinsel on his volumes of Horace and Scaliger which are to be seen on many of the volumes of to-day. The Doctor treated us most kindly, and took as much interest in me as if he had never had another boy asking for his guidance. Finding that I had mastered the Rudiments, and had wrestled successfully with Cornelius Nepos, he gave it as his opinion that I should go into the Second Class, then taught by the veteran teacher Mr. John Dun. Next morning I entered the Second Class, and never spoke to Dr. Melvin again till two years after, when I entered his Fourth Class.

After a few weeks I found my level in the Class, which was about the middle, and I am not sure but it would

really have been better had I entered the First Class, for then I might have been able to maintain a place in the first or second factions. I never got a prize till I left the Grammar School, when, our Class being divided, one half or more going to King's College, and the remainder to Marischal, I carried off a small bursary at the latter. Our Class went through the bonnet fights mentioned by Sir James Westland,¹ the Third Class attacking us from time to time at our door on the quadrangle. Occasionally some of the braver or more reckless spirits of the Third would fight their way through our ranks into our class-room, where, being cut off from their fellows, they suffered severely for their boldness.

Occasionally we would have a snowball fight with the "Sillerton loons," as the Gordon's College boys were then called, and on a few occasions the Combworks lads came as far as the Schoolhill to attack us.

The most memorable event of our Second Class year was the arrival of the late Queen Victoria at Aberdeen, when, away behind all the dignitaries—civil, educational, ecclesiastical, and military—we were allowed to march to the Quay to see Her Majesty come ashore with the Prince Consort, accompanied by a little boy and girl, seven and eight years old—the one being now King Edward VII., and the other the late Empress-Dowager of Germany. On the occasion of the hanging of Christie or some other criminal the School was called in an hour or more earlier than usual, so that none of us might have an opportunity to witness the sad spectacle.

Mr. John Dun—or "Dunnie" as we called him—was a good specimen of the teacher of the old school. He was far from brilliant, but he was wise and safe. While he was not a strict disciplinarian he always maintained good order in his class, because the boys liked him. He would frequently joke with us, and occasionally he would get off what he considered a good pun. He was accustomed to wear a blue dress-coat with brass buttons. In order that we might have no idea of who was likely to be called out to "say his lesson" he had a pack of cards with the names of his class written thereon, which he would shuffle every

¹ See No. IV. below.

day or two, and then call the names off as they came, beginning at the top. The plan worked well, and although the boys once in a while got hold of the pack, they were never successful in any of their attempts to trick the good old master. He taught us History, ancient and modern, and, knowing how troublesome it is to remember dates, he had a scheme to assist us in this, of which he was very proud. He made certain letters represent certain figures as follows :—

a	e	i	o	u	au	oi	ei	ou	y	g
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	∞
b	d	t	f	l	s	p	k	n	z	

He would then make up words from these letters so that they would tell the dates. For instance, when studying the history of England, he had a sentence like this :—

Wil-con-sau ; Ruf-koi ; Hen-pr-ag ; &c.

This means William the Conqueror, 1066 ; Rufus, 1087 ; Henry Primus, 1100. I must say I could remember the dates better than his words.

For a week or two before the summer vacation our Class was in an ecstasy of glee. In the morning and afternoon we pounded the desks with our clenched fists, and the floor with our feet, singing—

"Friday is the day, boys,
When we will get the play, boys,"

varied with

"What's a' the steer, kimmer,
What's a' the steer ;
Jamie he is landing,
And soon he will be here."

The class-room was in great confusion when Mr. Dun came in, but he was very lenient, and we could see that he enjoyed the prospect of a vacation as much as any of us.

A prize was given annually to the best-behaved boy in the Class, and it was decided by a vote of the scholars.¹

¹ See p. 201.

The most popular boy was apt to get it, if he was not too unruly.

We were all sorry to leave Mr. Dun with his easy ways, and entered the precincts of Dr. Melvin's class-room with the feeling that there was good reason, perhaps, for his being called "Grim." At the same time we felt that a new dignity was ours, and the childish things of the three lower classes were far beneath us.

The Doctor told us what text-books to buy, and among them was "Buchanan's Psalms." We found that they were out of print, but those of us who had not received them from their older brothers or friends managed to get them in the book-stalls of the New Market or some of the second-hand book-shops elsewhere. In maturer years I have often felt amused to look back and think how the Doctor got around the Scottish ideas regarding the most strict observance of the Sabbath. Of course it was wicked to study Latin phrases and idioms in Cicero, Horace, or Livy, but it was all right to do so in Buchanan's Psalms of David! Again, it would have been very wicked to write a version during sacred hours about Cæsar, Pompey, or Agricola; therefore the good Doctor gave us what he called "sacred" versions about Peter, Paul, and even Judas Iscariot, which met the most hearty approval of the Fathers and Brethren of the Kirk.

I need not speak of the famous Melvin. Some of the ablest writers of our century have described him, his character and methods. I do not know but it may be sacrilege to mention it, and I do not remember having seen it mentioned, but I cannot forbear stating that the Doctor was but human, and more than once showed favouritism. I do not mean favouritism to the best scholars on account of their scholarship, but favouritism to those who were poor scholars but whose parents were leading citizens of Bon-Accord and friends of the Doctor. He would say "Oh, Wullie, Wullie" to one boy when he made an egregious error, while to another making the same error he would give a scowl such as may have led to his being called "Grim Pluto." I remember on one occasion, when he was walking up the aisle, and turning suddenly on his heel, as was his custom, he saw one of his favourites doing

something very bad, and exclaimed "Et tu Brute." Had it been some other boy he would have been sent out into the Public School. During the last quarter, before the Competition for Bursaries at the Universities, the size of Dr. Melvin's classes was almost doubled by "Extraneans" coming from all over the North of Scotland to get their final equipment for the great contest.

Many a "lad o' pairts" came from the country parishes, followed by the prayers of the whole countryside for their success—and they were often successful. The numbers were so great that on version days we had to go into the Public School.¹ It was a strange feeling for us who had been together for three or four years to find among us such an influx of strangers, and it was with a nervous interest and curiosity that we awaited the result of the first version. Some Mac from some Glen crowded hard upon our first faction, and after a few weeks was at the top.

On looking back over nearly half-a-century, I cannot but think that many a young man studied too hard during those fateful three months. I trust the Grammar School boys of to-day are not injuring their health from over-study. Three of the best scholars of our Class died young from the effects of too hard study and too little recreation; others have attained high places in the Church, Army, and State, both at home and abroad. Only a few of us are left, scattered in the various zones of earth; time has whitened our hair and dimmed our eyes, but I am sure our hearts beat with renewed warmth when we think of the old Grammar School.

School Magazine, Oct. 1900.

III. "WHEN WE WERE BOYS"

BY THE HON. SIR WILLIAM BISSET BERRY, *Speaker of the Cape House of Assembly*; Mar. Coll., 1853-1875, M.B.; M.D., 1861 (A. G. S., 1849-1853).

. . . "So many years have parted me from the old School that I seem unable to write any sentences that could

¹ See App. iv. In 1851 Class V. contained 37 *alumni* and 52 *extranei*; and IV., 33 *alumni* and 13 *extranei*; in all, 135 boys, taken as one class.

interest you or the boys who now are the 'tenants entail' of the places some of us occupied once upon a time. Yet every 'Old Boy,' whether of the A. G. S. or of any other School, ought to have some pride in being remembered or thought of in his old haunts. To few of us can it be given to shed a lustre on the schools or colleges of our early days; but I take it he must be a poor old boy indeed who could allow those schools or colleges to drop out of his memory. Rather more than 50 years have passed since I, a very raw lad indeed, entered the School on the 'Hill,' under one of the best and kindest of masters—Alexander Beverly. Three years under his teaching ushered me into the presence of Melvin—the well-remembered 'Grim,' as we with a mixture of affection and reverence called him. . . . We, too, had our *Mag.*, but, alas! there was no printer and publisher even in the 'brave' town possessed with courage enough to 'bring it out.' Moreover, 'Yost' and Remingtons had made no signs; so that each contribution had to be read by the venturesome in the handwriting of its author. Even these difficulties did not stifle the young idea. As an 'editor' in those days I can vouch for it that some young fellows so beginning did thereafter achieve distinction as literary men, as journalists, as artists, and as preachers. How clearly that 'cut' in the centre of the *Mag.*'s cover brings back the vision of the old place! And that miniature belfry over the main entrance of the 'Public School' specially reminds me that among my 'hands' was one whom we proudly dubbed our poet! Into what more perfect form that 'hand' metamorphosed as the years brought him the philosophic mind, adding strength to his thought and dignity to his diction I know not; for Robert Harper,¹ ploughman's son, from the parish of Birse, swam only too soon out of my ken. Robert, best of any of us, could turn a sonnet, but his forte was a bit of rhyme in the broadest Doric as 'she was spoke' in the early fifties. Very shaky had that belfry become; so much so that the 'Town Councillors,' the very generous patrons and managers of the School, inhibited the 'pulling' of

¹ Mar. Coll., 1853-57; minister, New Maud, Glasgow.

it. Were we, three hundred young ragamuffins that we were, to sit quiet under this order for the silencing of the instrument which for some 300 years had gathered the youth of Bon-Accord by its clappe? True, the rope had been abstracted by the obedient janitor—John was his name you may be sure. But there were stones in the streets in those days; and it was not a very difficult matter for every youthful Grammarian to collect a 'bonnetful.' The consequent clanging of the bell and the clatter on the roof were so hideous that 'Grim' issued an order under a penalty that the stoning was to cease. We all yielded except one whom Melvin caught red-handed. Robert Harper's *magnum opus* appeared in my *Mag*. It was founded on this incident, had a tremendous vogue, until, while being surreptitiously read by a youth while he ought to have been listening to an analysis of a bit of Virgil, it fell into the hands of Melvin himself, whose astonishment you may fancy when I tell you that he figured in the piece somewhat too plainly—

"Ae day as we gaed oot to play,
Auld Grim his order doon did lay,
That we shu'd nae mair pelt the bell
Wi' muckle stanes to ga'ar her knell.
Ane o' oor nummer, Curry Gray,
Did soon forget what Grim did say;
For Cur nae sooner had got oot
Than the flingin' o' stanes he thocht aboot."

And so on, and so on, for several pages, description of Curry's disobedience, of his capture *in flagrante delicto*, and of his chastisement *more maiorum*. I had to write the sequel, showing what happened to Harper, the irreverent, when the criminality of such authorship was brought home to him.

School Magazine, Oct. 1900.

IV. "WHEN WE WERE BOYS"

BY THE HON. SIR JAMES WESTLAND, K.C.S.I., LL.D. (A. G. S. 1853-1858).

I FIND it no easy matter, after the lapse of so many years, to recall the facts of my connection with the Aberdeen Grammar School with sufficient accuracy to warrant my putting them down on paper; and I leave to the editor the entire responsibility for the idea that my statement of them can interest anybody but myself. By a calculation based upon the dates recorded in some of my books I find that it was in January of the year 1853 that I joined what was then the Second Class, under Mr. Beverly, the best and kindest of teachers, and under him I remained till November 1854. The staff of the School consisted of the Rector and three puisne masters; of these three masters each in turn took up a set of boys—usually about 50 or 60—as the "First Class" of the School, and conducted them through three years' teaching as First, Second, and Third Class, after which they passed under the Rector, who ran two classes—the Fourth and the Fifth. The building which contained the School was built on the plan of the letter H, the cross-piece being a large hall, used only once or twice in the year for special functions, and the four wings serving respectively for the First, Second, Third, and combined Fourth and Fifth Classes. The First and Second Classes entered their class-room direct from the open space in front, but the higher classes had to pass through the hall before reaching theirs. The general plan of all was the same, namely, two rows of seats and desks, rather hard, somewhat narrow, and very dilapidated, with a master's desk at the northern end. The masters arrived during the four or five minutes preceding the hour of meeting, each entering the large hall, where they waited for each other below the clock facing the principal door, thence marching off, when the hour struck, to their respective class-rooms. Until they arrived, the boys were free, and fairly boisterous. One rather favourite occupation for this time of waiting was the siege of one class-room by the boys of another class. The

fighting took place at the door, and the weapons were the caps or "bonnets" worn by the boys—the hard and tough material of a "Glengarry" can give you a disagreeable stinging sensation when it comes into violent contact with your face, especially if the contact is sufficiently rapid to anticipate the automatic defensive operations of your eyelids. The Second and Third Classes were the chief wagers of these wars, the Fourth and Fifth being protected by the halo of their seniority, and of their immediate connection with the Rector. The fights necessarily ceased when the masters arrived and occupied their usual station in the large hall. We looked on with some awe during the few minutes they passed in conversation, wondering what weighty matters could be under the discussion of such exalted minds—in all probability it was nothing more important than the current state of the weather, and the chances of its clearing up before noon. Of Mr. Beverly I remember very little, except his kindly manner, which interfered not one whit with his capacity for keeping order in his class. He was lame, and unable to move even in his class-room without the aid of a thick stick, and he had a curious habit, as he walked, of twisting his cane (the symbol of discipline) wheelwise up and down the ladder of his fingers. The master of the class above his was Mr. Geddes, who, on the death of Dr. Melvin, in the middle of 1853, succeeded him as Rector, passing to the charge of the Fourth and Fifth Classes a month or two before the boys reached him whom he had already brought through the First, Second, and Third Class. Dr. Melvin was looked up to with great respect by every boy from the youngest upwards. His "versions" (exercises for translation into Latin) had the reputation of being models of Latinity, the study of which was a tradition of the School. He lived in a house in Belmont Street, a few doors south of the Free Churches, and therefore in the immediate vicinity of the School; and it was in that house that he died, after an illness of a week or two, during which his condition from day to day was anxiously watched by all the scholars. He died a few days before the summer vacation was to begin, and there was not a single boy in the School who received with feelings other than those of sorrow the

announcement that the death of the venerable old Doctor necessitated the premature commencement of the holidays.

I had finished my year of Fourth Class under Mr. Geddes, when he also gave up the Rectorship. The Greek professorship in King's College had become vacant, and every boy in the Grammar School became a partisan of Mr. Geddes's candidature for the vacancy. The afternoon it was made public, we all stood in the courtyard awaiting Mr. Geddes's arrival for his class duties, and as he turned the corner, coming across from Belmont Street, he was received with a cheer which must have convinced him in what regard he was held in the School. I remember him turning round to us, after he had passed through the courtyard, and up the steps leading to the hall door, and saying to us that we seemed to be as glad of his promotion as he was himself.

His place was taken, by way of interim appointment, by a Mr. Kelman, while the Magistrates, the patrons of the School, made inquiry for a permanent successor. After two or three months they chose a Mr. Evans. It was a most unlucky choice. Rumours of strange want of discipline, and the gradual falling away of the boys from the class (for example, the opportunity was taken by a Mr. Barrack to re-open the Old Town Grammar School, to which many of Mr. Evans's pupils at once transferred themselves), induced the Magistrates, after a short time, to offer Mr. Evans terms of retirement. What became of him afterwards I do not know, beyond that he engaged in some literary work in London. Looking back now, I think it must be admitted that Mr. Evans never had a fair chance. It would have been difficult for anybody to have followed such teachers and scholars as Dr. Melvin and Mr. Geddes (I give the latter the name by which he was then known, and not the titles he afterwards earned); but Mr. Evans came from Ireland, and we took it as an insult to us that any Irishman should be thought capable of teaching those who had sat at the feet of the Rectors I have named; again, he pronounced Latin and Greek after the English fashion, which we, of course, considered unscholarly; and he, perhaps, did not exhibit that familiarity with Latin composition which sat, like a well-fitting garment, upon his predecessors; he offended, unwittingly perhaps, the sense of the School by showing that he was

capable of questioning their dicta; and in this way he stirred the prejudices of his pupils. He was, unfortunately, very shortsighted, and thus gave these prejudices the opportunity of breaking out in violent breaches of discipline. In short his failure arose less from incapacity in respect of scholarship than from want of knowledge of the Aberdeen schoolboy. No amount of shortsightedness would have prevented a Melvin or a Geddes from being master in his own class-room.¹

The Grammar School did not pretend to teach anything but Latin and Greek; for anything else we had to go elsewhere; and after Grammar School forenoon hours were over most of the boys went for an hour or more of teaching to the Little Belmont Street School—mainly to Mr. Robert Gray's classes for arithmetic, Euclid, and the like. Mr. Gray's assistant when I was there was Mr. Rennet—the only time I had the advantage of sitting under that distinguished teacher. All things have a beginning, and even Dr. Rennet once taught small boys vulgar fractions—he made me at least understand them. The central part of the Grammar School curriculum was the weekly or bi-weekly "version"; by it were places in the class taken, and mainly by it was our standard judged when we passed from the portals of the Grammar School to those of Marischal or King's College, through the Bursary Competition. But here there was a curious difference between the Old Town system and that of the New Town. The latter allowed the use of dictionaries; the former forbade them; and on the morning of the Bursary Competition Broad Street was filled with boys (or now, perhaps, rather young men) laden with piles of books, enough to form a porter's load; while all that the King's College competitor carried with him was his writing materials. I have seen something of competitive examination since those days, but I admit I have never been able to understand why at Marischal College bursaries were awarded or prizes given to those students who had the best dictionaries, or exhibited most capacity in the mechanical process of finding their way through them.

¹ "Paddy Evans," as he was nicknamed, had the reputation of being a fine classical scholar. But, according to tradition, he did not ingratiate himself by reminding young "Caledonia, stern and wild," that "in open competition, before their own Town Council, he had trodden on the necks of their countrymen."—[ED].

One scene more, and I have done. It is a scene which was repeated in Aberdeen every year, two or three evenings after the Bursary Competition. On part of the site where the Municipal Buildings now stand there was then an open street, Huxter Row, on the east side of which was the entrance to the Town Council Room. The competitors have come to hear their fate, and stand in the dark in the open street. When eight o'clock strikes, the Town Sergeant throws open the window above the Council door, and shouts, in order, the names of the winners of bursaries; and after each name, one boy enters the door and passes upstairs, followed by a cheer. When they are all gathered in a line in the Council Room (or ante-room), the Magistrate or Councillor in attendance inquires in turn of each successful competitor if he accepts or declines the bursary he has won. Those of the better-off classes were often instructed by their parents to decline, in order that the bursary might pass on to students who were really dependent on their winning a bursary for their ability to go to College at all. Some parents did what was better still—their sons accepted the bursaries they had won, and they paid the College fees for some student who would not otherwise find his way to a University education. I do not know how far it is now the case in Aberdeen, but in my day it was certainly not unusual to find students who had to earn their bread during the summer in order that they might obtain a University education in the winter—a class of men who have done much honour to the Scottish system of Education, and who were to be found, and perhaps still are, in many a school-house and manse in the North of Scotland.

The dingy building in Schoolhill afterwards descended to baser uses, but occasional visits to Aberdeen, before its disappearance to make way for the Gray School of Art, enabled me to make several pilgrimages to its ancient gates. Our number is now, alas! sadly dwindling, but there are many "Old Boys" besides myself who prefer its humble simplicity to the flaunting towers and gables of its successor in West Skene Street, and who would not admit that Ichabod could be inscribed over its doors.

School Magazine, Feb, 1901.

V. "WHEN WE WERE BOYS"

BY SIR GEORGE REID, P.R.S.A., LL.D.

(A. G. S., 1854.)

THE old Grammar School, which stood on the site now occupied by Gray's School of Art, was a low one-storied building, plain, almost to ugliness.

A stone wall surmounted by an iron railing separated it from the street. The entrance gate was flanked by square pillars surmounted by granite balls.

The Public School occupied the centre of the building. Two or three rude stone steps led up to the door, above which rose a simple pediment and belfry, the only attempt at architectural adornment of any kind.

The class-rooms were equally bare and ugly—low-roofed, whitewashed, and divided down the middle by a passage having on either side a number of hard wooden benches, or "factions," as they were called, not unlike church pews, and much carved over with the names and initials of former boys. The master's desk was on a slightly raised platform at the end nearest the fireplace, where also stood a coal-box, and a poker of Brobdingnagian size. In winter the class-rooms were often wretchedly cold, being so arranged that most of the boys sat between the outer door, under which the wind freely entered, and the fireplace, and any warmth given out by the latter went up the chimney. When the snow was deep, pathways had to be cleared to reach the class-room doors. Snow-balling went on as a matter of course, with no worse result than an occasional broken pane of glass.

Each morning, before beginning the work of the classes, the teachers met in the Public School, which was seldom used except on great occasions, such as the annual visitation of the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and city clergy. The lessons for the day began with a short prayer and calling the roll, each boy present answering to his name with an "*Adsum.*"

The class-books in use during the first year were "Ruddiman's Rudiments," the Colloquies of Erasmus, Chambers's Geography, a History of Scotland (White's or

Macculloch's), and one or two more, the names of which are now forgotten.

Few school-books can have had such a long lease of life as "Ruddiman's Rudiments." It was first published in 1714, and was still in use in Aberdeen Grammar School a hundred and forty years later ! Does it still survive, or have modern ideas and modern methods consigned it to the limbo of things forgotten ?

The teachers were the Rector, Mr. W. D. Geddes, for many years Professor of Greek and afterwards Principal of the University ; Messrs. Beverly, Dunn, and Brebner. I was in the class taught by the last-named.

In after years I knew the Rector as a dear personal friend—but if I begin to speak of Sir William Geddes and of all he was, there will be no limit to this paper.

Of the other teachers my recollections are less distinct. Mr. Beverly—"Dick," as he was irreverently called—was lame ; Mr. Dunn, short, and stout of build, has left on the mental retina only the image of the drab-coloured breeches and light waistcoats he used to affect in warm weather. Mr. Brebner—who went afterwards to South Africa—rose to a position of considerable importance in the whilom Orange Free State.¹

The Janitor of the School, John Gray, was a little, fresh-complexioned, white-haired man, somewhat stricken in years, but still active and not slow to wrath when provoked—as he frequently was. There was a story current among the boys that he had seen better days—had, in fact, been a Bailie (if not a Provost) of Bervie at one time. On Sunday he acted as minister's beadle in the West Parish Church. He was kindly and on the whole well liked by the boys, but, being small of stature and somewhat infirm, he was occasionally subjected to a good deal of hustling and annoyance.

There was only one boy in the class who possessed a watch. His name was Alfred Duncan, and he had invented an ingenious method of signalling the time of day on his fingers to anxious inquirers, of whom there were many as the hour for dismissing the class drew near.

¹ Head of the Education Department. His son was secretary to De Wet during the late Boer War.—[ED.]

Among my classfellows were—George Croom Robertson, afterwards Grote Professor of Philosophy and Logic in University College, London ; Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. M'Hardy, C.B. ; Colonel Andrew Baird, C.S.I. ; Alexander and David Kerr, sons of a well-known physician in Aberdeen ; George Thomson, son of a tailor in Broad Street, who afterwards went to China as a student interpreter, and died there ; Robert Gray, who became an advocate ; James Grant, a clever little fellow with a crutch ; one Macrobbe, who became a doctor ; another of the same name, a big, grown-up young man, one-armed and rather stupid, who turned cattle-dealer ; Colin Longmuir, son of a Free Church clergyman, afterwards a bank manager in Melbourne, and who died at sea on his way home ; William Keith and John Gordon ; but there must have been at least a score of others in the class, whose names I have quite forgotten.

School Magazine, May 1901.

VI. "WHEN WE WERE BOYS"

By REV. P. T. FORSYTH, D.D., *Principal of Hackney College, London* (A. G. S., 1860-1864 ; M.A. 1869).

. . . I had really only one year in the new building.¹ My first four years were spent in the dear old place in the Schoolhill, now swept away. It was a very "humble coo" compared with the present edifice, but it has warm associations for me—some of them graven on the palms of my hands. I do not know if the modern schoolboy understands the glow of that experience. It was a thrill connected with certain classics like Mayne Reid, read under the desk while Horace was going on above it. When I entered for my first year, there was a great to-do because the Fifth Class had barred out an unpopular Rector.² I went through the first three years with a teacher to whom I owe much, and recall thankfully

¹ 1863-64.

² T. W. E. Evans, 1855-60 ; see p. 255, and note.

—Mr. Brebner, who afterwards went to Pietermaritzburg.¹ The rest of the time I was with Mr. Barrack, the Rector, who afterwards went to Dollar. He was an excellent teacher also, and none the worse for a little spurt of occasional temper. I can see him now close a lesson abruptly by making his book fly across the room in wrath at bad preparation. But this was rare. He was a bright and kindly man, with a due sense of humour. When I visit my native town, and pass the present School, I note the corner where my party, in a snow-fight, were ambushed by a section of the other which we were pursuing, and I received a slush ball in the eye. It was in the interval, and, on returning to class, the order of the day was Arnold's Greek prose. As luck would have it, the exercise was on the accusative of nearer definition, headed by an example, "he had his eye knocked out." Of course, I was the person the Rector called up to do that sentence—to make sport for the two-eyed Philistines of the whole class.

I have some of my prizes yet, and my wife wears the gold medal for a brooch. How widely we have parted—I mean not the lady of the brooch and I, but my classmates. I recall Dr. James Shepherd, now a distinguished missionary in India; and Sir W. J. Sinclair, still more distinguished as a surgeon at home; Professor Davidson, the kind and able logician at the University; others of less public note, and many whom I regret to have lost sight of through my residence in England. Others, again, are dead and gone, leaving a trail of mellow light—like my dear companion, Professor Emslie, or my other chum, Jenkyns,² who was killed at Cabul on the threshold of a fine career. I hope I am not declining into fageyism, but I love the old days more and more. I would give anything to be a boy again for a month a year. With such a holiday a man might live and work for ever.

You won't believe me, but I assure you the old-fashioned boy was not an inferior creature to the new one; and I am glad I escaped the worship of athletic that has come in. We used to play; but I note that so

¹ See p. 258, and note.

² William Jenkyns, *Extranean* in V., 1864; I.C.S.; killed at Cabul, 1879. See p. 187, note 2.

many now make it an extra study, a work and a business. However, that will right itself. How thankful I have often been for the sound grounding I got at the Grammar School. It has never left me. I only hope the present members of the School are storing up as happy and powerful memories as I was doing. I did not know it then, but I know it now. And so, in many solemn ways, we don't know the best that is done for us till long after. It was rough and tumble often. But *rough* work or *rough* play harms nobody, so long as it does not prevent their becoming *gentle*-men. To love women comes by nature, I suppose; but to learn to love men needs some education, and School takes no small share in it. Be proud of the School and its honour. It has a fine past; its future reputation is in your hands.

There is only one thing that does more for mankind than education—I mean the Gospel, which has done so much for education also. Let me urge you, in your youth, to use your opportunities of education to the utmost; and, when you are old and rich, endow it, as the best return you can make for the past, and the best legacy for the future. They don't really believe in education here in England. But in your Scotland and mine they do, and always have done. You must keep that faith up, young or old. That faith of our forefathers in learning has been a blessed thing for us.

School Magazine, March 1905.

VII. "REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD!"

EHEU FUGACES

BY WILLIAM KEITH LEASK, M.A.

(A. G. S., 1869-1873.)

"O those days! I ne'er shall see the like!
I had not buried then so many hopes!
I had not buried then so many friends!
And the bright faces of my young companions
Are wrinkled like my own, or are no more."

LONGFELLOW, *The Spanish Student* (Act iii. Scene 3).

A VERY great change has come over the School since my days. A friend informs me that there are now Literary

and Debating Societies, Cinematograph Entertainments, Lectures, Concerts, together with organised Cricket and Football Clubs. I believe, too, there is a *Magazine*, ably conducted, with a staff, all in complete contrast with the surreptitious journal of stitched version-paper that circulated below the seats. It used to have a novel, short stories, and even original poetry, which I understand is now given up for serious contributions from Admirals, Colonial Governors, Presidents of the Royal Scottish Academy, and other lights of former days. My friend also tells me that, on a visit to some such lecture, he was much impressed by the great change for the better in the manners and the appearance of the boys. He seemed surrounded by a body of young aristocrats. But one thing deeply moved him—no one seemed to be eating on the sly.

Truly a great change! Either boys now are systematically overfed or underfed, or they seem tamely content with four meals a day! People tell me science has been tampering with the Gulf Stream, and that climate is milder; so that boys, being no longer like Esquimaux, eat much less. Certainly we no longer see the Short Loanings impassable, an avalanche in the Leadside, with piles of snow rendering King Street inaccessible, or Gilcomston Dam swarming with skaters. Here I only chronicle the fact that I can no more see boys stealthily eating pies in the Back Wynd, going round the Market Gallery munching a carrot and a stalk of rhubarb, or fondling a turnip. Then a boy was eager to put his friend "up to a good thing" in eatables, as he maybe now confides a good investment in Charteredds or in Mexican Grand Trunks; for to have kept such information to himself would have led to his ostracism as a bloated capitalist or selfish individualist. If a novelty appeared in a shop window, the news spread; if an apple-ship lay at the foot of Market Street, there was excitement; while the baker that had the contract for the "cloddies" to the Poorhouse could aspire to a reputation. There was nothing we could not eat, from mealy puddings and potted-head (from a shop in Chapel Street) to locust beans and liquorice-root. A sweetmeat called "Turkish Delight," introduced about 1870, marked an epoch to us quite as distinct as the

Norman Conquest in 1066, as also did some little niggers made of clammy and weak black sugar juice and flour, the taste of which I feel yet at this minute. Cinnamon, cloves, gum, alum—all were chewed or sucked. Lockhart and Salmond's candy was sold in the Market under the clock, while a shop in Carmelite Street had a short-lived "boom" in soft toffy balls. Davidson, the druggist in the same shop at the top of Crown Street, supplied the sherbet. One boy—James Davidson, a handsome little fellow from the Cape—used to make our mouths water by describing the fruit that a penny could buy there, often lamenting his harder allowance in the North. Yes, we are eating much less now than then. It may be, and I trust it is, the triumph of mind over body. All the same, I regret it, and maintain that the British Constitution then was reared on the solid rock of four meals a day, *plus*.

I think that, as we ate more, so we also read more; but it was in a wild, scrambling sort of fashion that perhaps was no great gain. Looking back to what we did read at that day, I see that there was little interest taken or guidance given, and that in the indiscriminate reading of books our eyesight was often irretrievably ruined. Books were books then, and it was the constant use of penny novels and boys' papers, together with the chief reprints of Messrs. Routledge, that did the mischief. Such ought never to have been allowed; but there was no School Library, and we had to find ourselves. Accordingly, a boy would go wandering about for days in the playground with Fenimore Cooper's "Lionel Lincoln," or "The Last of the Mohicans," in a sixpenny edition of small double-column type that must have ruined any eye. I must have read penny novels and tales about Indians and pirates enough to stock a shop, and I certainly do not regret having done so, though I do now think much could and should have been done in supporting and extending the interest in the ordinary school work. I never read "Robinson Crusoe" till I was a tertian, and "The Pilgrim's Progress" I went through at the same time. Nowadays "I should," like Dr. Johnson, "not give a farthing" for a boy that did not know both thoroughly. At earlier schools the Bible and Shorter

Catechism were the regular Sunday work for Monday, and I regret that Scripture History and Geography have never been the subject of study in the Grammar School, while I also strongly maintain, with the great historian Freeman, that a sound knowledge of the Acts of the Apostles is about the best piece of political and historical training a boy can get. I remember Dr. Clyde some years ago condemning the School for its neglect of Classical History and Geography. Has the modern craze for results and examinations quite ousted sound learning and religion from the School? Boys who then read most sedulously often read too widely, or they were discouraged by their parents, who regarded a penny novel as a short cut to the gallows, and Captains Mayne Reid and Marryat as the fathers of all scamps and stowaways. I fondly hope the gallant captains are now standard in the School Library, sound in every way as they are. We never heard of Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne"; a little fat duodecimo about animals circulated from hand to hand, printed (if I remember) by Milner and Sowerby, of Halifax. Then we had also some of the Rev. J. Wood's books about the seaside and shells, but any boy with a real fancy for such studies had a hard time of it between Colenso's "Arithmetic" and Bain's "Grammar." He could only creep up to the Museum in Marischal College, on Saturday afternoons, to establish affectionate terms of intimacy with the stuffed polar bear, the St. Bernard dog, and the crocodile, along with the nurses and children that then frequented the place.

I believe they teach Music now in the School, and I hope it is true, though that miserable Bursary Competition may prevent it. The brightest and best men I have known in two Universities have been those that were never so little alone as when alone, so long as they could lose themselves for hours over a piano or violin. I except the flute, for no good and moral person ever plays that—or chess. Long after Colenso, Barnard Smith, Todhunter, Euclid, and other miscreants are in their dishonoured graves (we sadly want an educational sort of Kitchener to hang or shoot such rebels), the sense of harmony will exercise a profoundly beneficial influence on life, and I often think that

the late Professor W. Robertson Smith wrecked his career over that curiously manifested lack in his books of the sense of humour, proportion, and the fitting. "Music," he once said, "is perfect torture to me." I fear we are now in for a cry for an engineering department in Broad Street, together with extended laboratories, lavatories, and what not, and that a Chair of Music is so hopeless a dream as never once to have occurred to any anonymous donor. For a long time yet the distinguished stranger, on visiting Aberdeen, will be taken by Provosts to the New Market, the Fish Market, and the Mitchell Tower as exhausting Bon-Accord. Plato and Aristotle were strenuous in their insistence on the educational value of music. But of course that Bursary Competition still blocks the way, and that doughty Aberdonian who declared that he knew only two tunes—"the ane was the Auld Hundredth and the t'ither wasna"—will never really die. What is a man profited if he gain the first bursary, that ruin to the life of hundreds, and miss in life an innate sense of harmony, dignity, and order? Turn to Longfellow's picture, in his "Tales of a Wayside Inn," of the great Norwegian violinist Ole Bull, and then think of the sordid lives and the want of all true education with American millionaires, now heralded as the perfect men, robbing God and man on six days of the week and panting hard to run tramways on the seventh!

Our songs then were neither many nor striking, for after all they were not encouraged. Anyway we were better off than with the vulgar trash in the University Song Book. They tell me that "Daisy Bell" and "O, listen to the Band!" were for long the rage in Aberdeen drawing-rooms, and I am sorry to hear it, or the run after London actresses that it implies. Ours were ancient or sentimental. There was a shop window of a music-seller, in the little street running from Golden Square to Diamond Street, that boys frequented for the latest songs, serious and comic, and there I certainly acquired an extensive repertoire of old-fashioned ditties and melodies that would have creditably set up a modern music-hall singer. Boys early in the School had "Annie Lisle," which about 1867 was introduced into town by a French harpist and his

daughter playing opposite the School gates. Our one serio-comic was—

“Oh, you’ll meet me in the lane, love, when the clock strikes nine,
In ecstasy again, love, to call thee mine;
My heart with love is burning, my brain is almost whirling
With loving thee so wildly, my sweet mountain rose.”

Juvenile sentiment ran on “The Sailor’s Grave” (“Our bark was far, far from land”) and “The Officer’s Funeral,” the last of which affected us all for the sake of the horse rather than for the man. There was one ambitious little operatic snatch of four lines, which I have never heard again since that day—

“What fairy-like music comes over the sea,
Enchanting the senses with its charming melody?
’Tis the voice of the mermaid, as she floats o’er the main,
And mingles the note with the Gondolier’s strain.”

But the most popular, as we advanced, were Charles Mackay’s well-known and rousing stave of “Cheer, boys, cheer,” and his song set to music by Henry Russell, sung by that composer more than fifty years ago in the Square Room of the Music Hall, and by countless emigrants all over Australia and Canada—

“Rouse, brothers, rouse! the way is long before us,
Free as the winds we love to roam;
Far through the prairie, far through the forest,
Over the mountains we’ll find a home.”

Highwaymen were justly at a discount in the School in my time, through the disappearance of the older class of penny dreadfuls, but the dashing and gentlemanly pirate was a favourite, if not too fond of blood and of (why overdo a good thing?) making his prisoners walk the plank. Thus the old song by an American, Angus Reach, was much affected for the tune, that even yet does me good to hum—

“Set every stitch of canvas to woo the freshening wind,
The bowsprit points to Cuba, the land lies far behind.
Filled to the hatches full, my boys, across the sea we go
With twice five hundred niggers in the stifling hold below.”

Of course I know that a great historian, J. R. Green, was against the "drum-and-trumpet" theory of history, but I know equally well that he will never convince boys. The pirate may have become a tradition in the School since Byron's days, who, like Stevenson, was partial to such persons. But if we at a distance admired him, our genuine admiration was unreservedly given to the wonderful kind of midshipman in Kingston's stories, who would always smuggle himself into the stern-sheets of the boat as she pushed off, and who, when the admiral was wounded, rushed with his drawn cutlass and pistol to the front, leading the hardy tars to victory, with doubloons and pieces of eight, inevitably marrying Donna Inez, the only and lovely daughter of the Spanish Governor.

I wonder how many boys have ever heard these songs. Not one, I fear. The idea occurs to me here why the School has never had a song-book of its own. Such a little waistcoat book I have seen in the possession of Eton and Harrow boys, and I venture to suggest to the Rector that such a compilation would greatly add to the tone and *esprit* of the School. If he thinks of having one, I pray him not to be too hard on the pirate above. Put him in, if even as a warning!

I cannot learn what games are now played. We had no ground, so that our only amusements were cricket and marbles. A ball may, in a desultory way, have been kicked about; but it was not football. The combined vocabulary of the modern devotees of cycling and golf could not equal the long acquired terminology used thirty years ago in marbles, when the devotion to the game was keen. I see children yet in poor streets playing the game on the kerb stones, but, as Robinson Crusoe says of the beasts in his island, "their tameness is shocking to me." They play listlessly, the old joy of battle is gone, and I hurry past them sadly, as if the light of my life were quite gone out. In summer boys would play at the back, long after hours, and so delay the tea arrangements at home. Two would unite in a "haver," or partnership, and the joy—deep, calm, holy—of one visiting the other periodically to audit the account, if the total in the green baize bag ran to hundreds and to the value at most of a shilling,

would pass words. Kitchener and his weekly Boer-haul seems quite pale to it. Parents cried out and formed Stop-the-War Committees, for with good players the lining of no jacket, trousers, or waistcoat could long withstand the strain of captures and surrenders.

Saturday was given to cricket. Boys gathered about Crown Street or the foot of Ferryhill Brae to proceed about 9 A.M. to the Links to see matches. There they stayed—"from morn to dewy eve, a summer's day,"—till past 5 P.M., straggling home weary up past the old powder magazine, or up Constitution Street. How nature stood it I cannot say, for the sole refreshment was a halfpenny cake of gingerbread and a penny bottle of spruce beer. For as long would boys congregate round the old Holborn Cricket Ground, where streets now run, great in averages of the leading batsmen and the technical slang. How tame now reads the report of a cricket match as compared with the airy and racy style affected of old! Why, I declare, the newspapers describe Maclaren's Australian Eleven as if it were grave English Literature. But then—"Jupp then skyed Lilywhite over the pavilion, carpeted the next for four, snicking a couple in the following over. A row in his timber-yard then dislocated his partnership with Tom (Humphry), when the rot set in, the Dead March from the wicket to the pavilion being the order of the day." Page, Duke, and Cobbett were the great makers of the bat then. A copy of verses hung up in a small case in the old scoring-box of "the Aberdeenshire" we regarded then with awe, and I heard from a friend, who saw it this last summer, that it still exists, doubtless the very oldest asset or possession of the club. The lines were on Alfred Mynn, the great player for Kent, about half-a-century ago or more. I am sure many "Old Boys" all over the world would be very pleased if these lines could be reproduced, as a memory of other days. On Saturday nights boys read their penny papers; then, after their long and weary walk, they had their tea and their early bed.

When neither marbles nor cricket came in season, Saturday would hang heavy. The town has changed so much since the diversion of the Dee, that I have much difficulty in repicturing to myself the old harbour and the

ferry from Footdee to Torry. I never hear dulse cried about in the streets without remembering the old days about the lighthouse and the Bay of Nigg, or feeling some touch in common with Lord Balmerino, stopping on the way to execution in the Tower, in 1746, to buy "ha'penny blobs," or big gooseberries, and so fancying himself again at the High School of Edinburgh. To visit Maidencraig and its waterwheel was not to be lightly undertaken; like Cults, it seemed so far off. To fish for flounders at Donmouth was popular, but the ambition was to get a permit from Jonathan Mess, the corn merchant, who had some proprietary right over the salmon fishing at the Cruives. How many letters were addressed to that suffering man I cannot say: to have attended to them would have needed a staff of clerks. I know only one boy that secured it, though I now see that his father did, without much material diminution of trout.

Nowadays I hear of parties, concerts, and all sorts of amusements for boys inside and outside School. During all my five years I think I was once or twice at Hamilton's Diorama and at the old circus in Bridge Street, quite changed in surroundings since then. I never heard of a boy being at a pantomime or a professed concert. The 1868 First Class under Dr. Beverly must have been about 60 in number,¹ and I could swear to or identify them all. I see them all yet in tiers—and tears. About nearly a half are dead or unknown. Six became Bajans; two graduated. Four live in Aberdeen. Of the rest "all are gone, the old familiar faces"—scattered far and wide.

Looking back over all those years, I am willing to believe that things have improved with our School. In my time it was a period of transition: it had left the old building and felt strange in the new. It was ruled by the Town Council, and possibly they meant well, "particularly well," as Mr. Micawber said of his son; "but I have not yet found that he carries out his meaning in any given direction whatsoever." Often the School was left without prizes, till some Old Boy came forward to provide them out of his own pocket. I fear there was not very much system, and certainly nothing was done to create any feeling of

¹ Mr. W. Keith Leask entered Class I. in 1869, when the class numbered 35. Class I. of 1868-69 numbered 50.—[ED.]

affection for the place. It is the same with the University. There has of late been a monstrous beating of tom-toms over that Extension Scheme, but it really deceives no one, and there are not a dozen people living who actually care one straw for the University of Aberdeen. Much has been done of late to put the Grammar School on a proper footing in relation both to the town and the whole North of Scotland, but much yet remains.

We all know how much Thackeray did for his old School of the Charterhouse. Southey says John Wesley also, on his annual visits to London, had such a predilection for it, that he made it a custom to go all over the scenes of his boyhood. When one thinks of the thousands that have passed through the Grammar School and—make no such visit! Perhaps if the School Board were to appoint a body of Governors, to aid it and advise it in all such matters as never can be, for social and educational reasons, satisfactorily handled or carried out by a changing and shifting class of people like a School Board, much could be done. The School, as Virgil said of Troy, is *antiqua, multos dominata per annos*. Such a link, I venture to think, would prove of the highest service both to the School and to the Board itself.

CHAPTER XVIII

FAMOUS FORMER PUPILS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ABERDEEN

BY DR. JAMES MOIR, RECTOR.

(From a Lecture delivered on 18th January, 1889.)

. . . WHEN we come to the 18th century we find a good many famous names connected with the School. The first I shall notice is Thomas Blackwell. He was first Professor of Greek, and afterwards Principal of Marischal College. He did much to raise the standard of Greek learning in the North, and published two works which, though little valued now, were much thought of at the time. One of these was entitled "An Enquiry into the Life and Writings of Homer," the other "Memoirs of the Court of Augustus." His widow founded the Chemistry Chair in Marischal College, and left the money which forms the Blackwell Essay Fund.

Dr. George Campbell, the opponent of David Hume, is the next famous pupil we shall notice. The Rector under whom he studied was Alexander Malcolm,¹ who, contrary to the ordinary tradition of the Rectors, was distinguished for Mathematics, not for Classics. His work on Arithmetic published in London was the most philosophical work on that subject which had yet appeared in Britain. Much that he places under Arithmetic would now be called Algebra. Dr. Campbell was appointed Principal of Marischal College in 1759. There is a story that he wrote to the chief of the Campbells, the Duke of Argyll, reminding him that his grandfather, or great-grandfather, had held the basket into which the Marquis of Argyll's head dropped when he was beheaded. Whether

¹ Dr. George Campbell left the School in 1734, the same year as "Tullochgorum," John Glennie, father of Professor George Glennie, &c. The Rector at that date was John Milne.

this historical connection with the Duke's family helped Dr. Campbell in his application we cannot say, but he was appointed Principal. Dr. Campbell's great work, which gained him a reputation not only in Britain, but on the Continent, was his "Dissertation on Miracles," in answer to the famous David Hume's "Essay on Miracles." It would be out of place to try here to settle which of the combatants had the best of the argument. Hume wrote a polite letter to Dr. Campbell saying that he had made an early resolution never to answer attacks on his opinions, but that he had never felt so violent an inclination to defend himself.

Another work of Dr. Campbell's which greatly added to his reputation was his "Philosophy of Rhetoric." Several of the eminent Scottish writers of last century devoted much time and composed works to help their countrymen to write good English. Lord Kames, Dr. Beattie, David Hume, Dr. Blair, all wrote with this view. It is interesting to recall the fact that the most famous metaphysical writer which Aberdeen has yet produced, Dr. Alex. Bain, has followed in Campbell's footsteps, and has given us works on English Grammar, Scotticisms as they are erroneously called, and Rhetoric. Dr. Bain was for some time a pupil of the Grammar School, and must have derived some benefit from coming in contact with the accurate scholarship of Dr. Melvin. But to return to Principal Campbell. He impressed all who came in contact with him as a deeply religious and profoundly learned man. Probably no clergyman of the Established Church of Scotland can be mentioned who has done more to save that Church from the charge often brought against her that she has produced no great theological writer. Another defender of the Christian faith was also connected with the School, not however as a pupil, but as a master. This was Dr. Beattie, the author of the "Minstrel." His "Essay on Truth" gained him great fame. His portrait in an allegorical picture was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and may be seen in Marischal College. He married the daughter of Dr. James Dun, who was master and rector in the School for some 66 years. Their son, James Hay Beattie, was educated in the Grammar School, and was a young man of great promise. He was appointed assistant and suc-

cessor to his father as Professor of Moral Philosophy, but died at the early age of 22.

Another poet connected with the School was Wm. Meston. Like Beattie he was a master for some time in the School. He was afterwards appointed Professor of Philosophy in Marischal College, but when the Rebellion of 1715 broke out, he adhered to the Stuart side, and lost his professorship. The Earl Marischal, by way of compensation, made him Governor of Dunottar Castle. When the Rebellion collapsed he returned to teaching, opening Academies in Elgin, Turriff, and Montrose. As a poet he imitated the famous Butler in his "Hudibras." He shows very considerable power of sarcasm and wit; but sometimes, like his model, borders on the indecent.

In last century the name of Gregory is perhaps the one which throws most honour on the Grammar School. These Gregories were connections of the famous Rob Roy McGregor, and one of them actually had the audacity to offer to take Rob's son and by education make a gentleman of him. Unfortunately Rob's ideas of what constitutes a gentleman were not those of his learned relative.¹

David Gregory, Professor of Astronomy in Oxford, was born in 1661, in Aberdeen, and was educated at the Grammar School. His father was the first person in Scotland who possessed a barometer, and his prophecies as to the weather caused him to be regarded as a wizard. The Presbytery sent a deputation to interview the father, and only spared him discipline because he used his superior knowledge, not only in such uncanny ways as foretelling weather, but also in healing the diseases of his poorer brethren. His son David so distinguished himself that when he was only 23 years of age he was appointed Professor of Mathematics in Edinburgh University. Here he was the first man in Britain to teach Sir Isaac Newton's "Principia." He afterwards came to be the intimate friend of Sir Isaac, and was appointed Savilian Professor of Astronomy in Oxford in 1692. His father had the singular honour of having three sons all professors at the

¹ Another traditional version of the story is that Rob offered to take the Professor's son, and make a "shentleman" of him.—[ED.]

same time : David, of whom I have been speaking ; James, who succeeded his brother in the Mathematical chair of Edinburgh ; and Charles, Professor of Mathematics in St. Andrews.

James Gregory, a distinguished member of the same family, is chiefly famous as the inventor of the Reflecting Telescope. He was educated at the School, and rose to be the greatest authority on Astronomy in the kingdom, and he married a daughter of Jameson the painter. He was appointed Professor of Mathematics in Edinburgh University, but did not long enjoy the chair, for after showing some of his pupils the Satellites of Jupiter, he was suddenly struck blind and died three days afterwards at the early age of 37.

Dr. John Gregory belonged to the same gifted family, and was born in Aberdeen in 1724. After receiving his education at the Grammar School and King's College, he removed to Edinburgh, whence, after studying medicine for three years, he went to Leyden for further study. He was recalled to fill the Chair of Philosophy in King's College, but soon resigned it and went to London to practise as a physician. Here he lived on intimate terms with all the famous men of the day. In 1755 he returned to Aberdeen to fill the Chair of Medicine in King's College. He was elected to the Chair of Medicine in Edinburgh eight years after. He published various works, which were much esteemed at the time. He was found dead in his bed in February, 1773.

A pupil of the School who rose to fame in a different way was James Gibbs,¹ the celebrated Architect, born near the close of the 17th century. He studied architecture in Holland and Rome. He returned to Britain in 1710, and by the influence of the Earl of Mar got much employment. His first great work was the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. Cunningham says of this edifice : "All the parts are nicely distributed, nothing can be added, nothing taken away." The Radcliffe Library of Oxford was built by him, and is his most magnificent work. Of the dome of this building Cunningham says : "It is perhaps the grandest feature in the grandest of

¹ His portrait is in the School Hall.

all English architectural landscapes." In 1728 Gibbs gave to the magistrates of his native city a plan for the West Church of St. Nicholas. This church may still be seen, but neither externally nor internally is it very handsome. I do not think there is any other building in the city which can be ascribed to him.

But it is time now to come to the present century. For chronicling its famous alumni, we possess the Registers of the School from 1796. These show a number of names of men who have risen to fame in various spheres of usefulness. I can only briefly touch on them.

The first great name is Byron. . . . [See cc. vii.-x.]

Sir James McGrigor, dux in 1784; rose to be the head of the Army Medical Department, and Rector of Marischal College. The obelisk in the Quadrangle of the College is to his memory.

In 1809 the famous scholar and future Rector, Melvin, left the School, gaining the first bursary. He was appointed Master in 1821, Rector in 1826, and died in 1853.

Sir Alexander Anderson, the most far-seeing and public-spirited Provost of the century, to whom is due the honour of erecting the present school.

William Littlejohn, once manager of the Town and County Bank.

The late Professor Ogston.

The late Wm. Spalding, Professor of English in St. Andrews University.

Dr. Francis Edmond, of Kingswells.

William Dyce, R.A., the famous Painter.

Dr. Islay Burns, Professor in the Free Church College, Glasgow.

Dr. William Garden Blaikie, dux in 1833; Professor in Free Church College, Glasgow, and editor of the *Sunday Magazine*.

The venerable Principal Brown, Free Church College, Aberdeen; dux in 1817; one of the translators of the Revised Edition of the New Testament.

David M. Masson, Professor of English in Edinburgh University, and author of the great "Life of Milton."

Dr. Alexander Bain, Metaphysician; author of works on Grammar, Rhetoric, Education, Psychology and Logic.

Professor Matthews Duncan, a leading London practitioner, who died lately.

Dr. Thomas Keith, M.D., Edinburgh.

Andrew Leith Adams, Professor of Zoology, Cork University.

Dr. John F. White, Art Critic.

Dr. Chalmers, China, author of a learned work on the Chinese language.

Dr. George Ogilvie, Headmaster of George Watson's College, Edinburgh.

His brother, Robert, one of H.M.'s Senior Inspectors.

Their brother, Joseph, Rector of E.C. Training College, Aberdeen.

James McDonald, LL.D., Principal of Kelvinside Academy, Glasgow.

James Donaldson, LL.D., Principal of St. Andrews University; formerly Professor of Humanity in Aberdeen, and before that, Rector of the Royal High School, Edinburgh.

Two distinguished brothers, Charles and John G. Robertson, Indian Civil Service.

Their brother is Professor George Croom Robertson, editor of *Mind*, who took the 1st bursary from the old 4th class.

Three masters were at the School about this time—Mr. Charles Sleigh, Mr. James W. Legge, and Mr. A. F. Murison.

Charles Slessor, a Senior Wrangler.

Sir Robert Hamilton, Governor of Tasmania, and formerly Under-Secretary for Ireland. He, strange to say, succeeded in Tasmania another old pupil and fellow-student, Sir George Strahan, who held several proconsulships in turn.

A classfellow of theirs was George McKenzie, who was the champion chess player of the world.

Sir James Stirling, one of H.M.'s Chief Justices for England, and dux in 1851. He was a Senior Wrangler.

A very famous and good man of the General Gordon type was Colonel Francis Duncan, M.P., and he was at school with Strahan, Hamilton, and Stirling—a rare galaxy of talent.

Professor S. D. F. Salmond, Chairman of Aberdeen School Board, and author of Theological works.

James C. Geddes—brother of the Principal—a distinguished Indian Civil servant, cut off in his prime.

James Robertson, D.D., Professor in the F.C. College, Aberdeen, and formerly Principal of the Training College in Calcutta.

David Littlejohn, Sheriff-Clerk.

Professor A. F. Murison, University College, London, formerly English Master in this school.

Wm. A. Hunter, M.P., formerly a Professor in the same College.

Thomas A. Stewart, LL.D., H.M.'s Senior Inspector. Interim Rector here in 1869.

Wm. Elmslie, Professor in Presbyterian College, London.

John Cook, Principal of Bangalore College, India.

Robert A. Neil, a distinguished Sanscrit Scholar and Lecturer in Cambridge.

Rev. James Paterson, Professor in U.P. College, Edinburgh.

William Mollison, a Second Wrangler; a distinguished Mathematician and Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge.

Professor Alex. Ogston, M.D.

William Jenkyns, Indian Civil Servant. He was killed at Cabul—a man of great promise.

David Ferrier, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in London University, and author of works on the Brain.

W. Robertson Nicoll, editor of the *Expositor*.

Alexander M. Mackay, of Uganda, left School in 1864.

Frank Ogilvie, Principal of the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh.

John Ramsay, editor of the *Aberdeen Journal*, and founder of the Smith Medal—a genial and witty writer.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

LIST OF RECTORS

1262. Thomas de Bennum.
* * * *
- Andrew de Syves, died *circa* 1418.
1418. John Homyll.
* * * *
- Circa* 1479. Thomas Strachan.
1509. John Marshall.
1519. John Byssat.
1538. Hugh Munro [and Robert Skene].
1539. Hugh Munro.
1550. James Chalmers.
1557. John Henderson.
1573. James Carmichael.
1575. William Carmichael.
1580. Thomas Cargill.
1602. { David Wedderburn } Conjunct Rectors.
 { Thomas Reid }
1640. Thomas Chalmers.
1655. Alexander Strachan.
1663. John Forbes.
1670. Robert Skene.
- 1676-9. *Interregnum*. School under John Findlater.
1679. John Findlater.
1717. John Milne.
1747. James Dun (LL.D.).
1791. { Dr. James Dun.
 { James Cromar, Senr., Joint Rector.
 { Dr. James Dun.
1796. { Andrew Dun, Joint Rector.
1798. James Cromar, Junr., *interim* [?].
1803. James Cromar, Junr.
1826. James Melvin (LL.D.).
1853. William Duguid Geddes, (LL.D., Kt.).
- Nov. 1855-Jan. '56. John Kelman, *interim*.
1855. Thomas Waller Eyre Evans.
- Interim*, 8 months, James M'Lauchlin, of Inch.

MASTERS AND UNDER-MASTERS, 1602-1853

The succession of Masters in the Aberdeen Grammar School is given in the School prospectus,¹ but, so far as I am aware, no complete catalogue of the Under-Masters has hitherto been printed. Almost all their names occur in the lists of alumni of Marischal College, (*Fasti Acad. Marisc.*, Vol. II.: New Spalding Club); but it may be convenient to have them also in a separate form, and I append references to the Minutes of appointment in the *Town Council Register* (Vols. 51 to 80), with notes of such identifications as have been made. The *Register* is a mine of information regarding the School, and it is to be hoped that one or other of her Rectors may find time to digest this material and write her history. Whoever undertakes this task must be warned not to trust to Kennedy's MS. index of the *Register*, which frequently ignores entries of much interest; but to rely rather on the guidance of Mr. A. M. Munro, always as readily given as it is valuable.

In the early days of the Grammar School there seems to have been only one Master,² but on the death of Mr. Thomas Cargill, in the beginning of 1602, two "conjunct maisteris" were appointed (*T. C. R.*, xl. 409), Mr. David Wedderburne and Mr. Thomas Reid, early graduates of Marischal College. This arrangement subsisted for but eighteen months, as in the autumn of 1603 Reid was promoted to a regency in his Alma Mater (xli. 415; see also *S. N. & Q.*, ix., 145; x., 5); and Wedderburne became "full Maister . . . be himselff alane." On the next page, however, the *Register* refers to a "Doctour" or under-master, apparently (xliii., 100) "lawfully constitute and admitted" by the Master. In 1617 (xlvi., 113) this office is held by Mr. William Wedderburne, Mr. David's younger brother (M.A., Mar. Coll., 1615; regent there not later than 1623; and, in 1633, minister of Bethelny).

On 16th May, 1627 (li. 352), the Provost exhibits to the Council, "reallie befor thame in reddie down tauld money on the counsall tabile," 500 merks which "ane nichtbour of this burgh who obscuire his name . . . hes frielie gewin." The interest to be "bestowed yeirlie in all tyme cumming to the doctour of the grammer schoole as ane help to his provisioun, prouyding the said doctour be chosen and placed be the prouest, baillies and counsell of this burgh for the tyme."

1628, July 23 (li., 441). Mr. Alexander Fraser to be a second Doctor, under Mr. David Wedderburne, with salary of £100 Scots: result of said donation. Son of late Adam F. of Finzeauch; M.A., Mar. Coll., 1627.

1630, July 28 (li., 552). Mr. Thomas Chalmers to be second Doctor, in place of Fraser, who "resolves to employ his studies elsewhere." Son of late Mr. Thomas Chalmers, advocate,

¹ The list above, pp. 282-3, is from the Prospectus for 1866-7. ² But v. p. 282, n. 1.

- burgess; Liddell bursar, Mar. Coll., 1624; prize for "poesie" (*Fasti Acad. Marisc.*, i., 127), 1624; M.A. [1628]; Johnston divinity bursar, 1633-37.
- 1636, June 17 (lii., 277). Mr. James Boyd to be a Doctor, in place of Chalmers, demitted. Son of Archibald B., burgess; Cargill bursar, 1627; M.A., 1631.
- 1640, July 15 (lii., 559). Mr. Thomas Chalmers to be Master, in place of Wedderburne, demitted on account of bodily infirmity; Salary, 200 merks Scots.
- 1641, June 16 (lii., 645). Mr. Robert Morrison to be one of the Doctors, in place of Boyd, who "goes abroad to study at a University." Son of late John M., burgess; Liddell bursar, 1635; M.A. [1639]: Liddell tutor (*Fasti Acad. Marisc.*, i., 123), 1640-43; M.D., Angers, 1648; Professor of Botany, Oxford, 1669; one of the fathers of the Science in England. (Bobart's *Vita*.) Portrait in possession of the University.
- 1642, Dec. 14 (lii., 772). Mr. David Swan to be one of the Doctors, in place of ? M.A., of ?
- 1655, Sept. 12 (liii., 456). Mr. Alexander Strachan to be Master, in place of Chalmers, demitted; M.A. [1644].
- 1655, Oct. 4 (liii., 460). Mr. John Cassie to be Doctor. M.A., King's Coll., 1629.
- 1656, July 16 (liii., 493). Mr. Patrick Strachan to be Doctor. Son of late Mr. William S., minister of Old Aberdeen; M.A., King's Coll., 1656; minister of Maxton, 1683.
- 1657, Aug. 26 (liii., 552). Mr. Alexander Reid to be Doctor. Son of late William R., burgess; Liddell bursar, 1651; M.A. [1655]; Liddell tutor, 1654-56.
- 1658, May 5 (liii., 600). Mr. James Lundie to be second Doctor. (The school "was in use to have two": each to have salary of 100 merks.) Son of Mr. John Lundie, Humanist at King's College; M.A. there, 1657; minister, Edinburgh, 1663.
- 1658, Dec. 29 (liv., 12). Mr. Walter Alexander, schoolmaster of Bellie, to be second Doctor, in place of Lundie, who has "desertit his charge." Son of Alexander A., elder, burgess; Crombie bursar, 1651; M.A. [1655]; Johnston divinity bursar, 1658-62; minister of Echt, 1666.
- 1659, Aug. 10 (liv., 82). Mr. William Saunders, student of divinity, to be one Doctor, in place of [Reid], who has "desertit his charge"; M.A., 1659; Professor of Mathematics, St. Leonard's College, St. Andrews, 1672; Master of Grammar School, Perth, 1690; author.
- 1663, June 3 (liv., 446). Mr. John Forbes, Humanist at King's Coll., to be Master. M.A., King's Coll., 1660. Afterwards Sheriff-depute of Aberdeen.

- 1663, Dec. 12 (liv., 496). Mr. John Barclay, student of divinity, to be one of the Doctors. Liddell bursar, 1655; M.A., 1659; Liddell tutor, 1659-61; minister of Montquhitter, 1664; of Cruden, 1678; author of metrical *Description of the Roman Catholick Church* [Abd.], 1689; translator of Arthur Johnston's *Epigrams*. Hew Scott (*Fasti Eccles. Scot.*, iii., 664) erroneously makes him M.A., King's Coll., 1672.
- 1664, Nov. 16 (liv., 562). Mr. John Findlater, student of divinity, to be one of the Doctors, in place of Barclay. Son of late Alexander F., burgess; Crombie bursar, 1660; M.A. [1664]; Liddell tutor, 1664-66.
- 1666, Jan. 16 (liv. 652). Mr. Alexander Innes to be one of the Doctors. Son to the Laird of Tibbertie; M.A. [1663].
- 1667, March 20 (lv., 5). Under Patrick Dun's Mortification, the Master is to receive a salary of 600 merks, and the fees of his own class, together with an "eik" of £200 in full satisfaction of "candle and bent silver" fees. The Doctors are to receive salaries of 300 merks each, and the fees of their own classes, and a third Doctor is appointed, viz., Mr. Patrick Innes; son of the late Mr. Robert I., surgeon; Liddell bursar, 1659; M.A. [1663]; Liddell tutor, 1663-66; Johnston divinity bursar, 1665-69; minister of Deskford, and of Banff, 1679.
- 1670, March 30 (lv., 210). Mr. Robert Skene, schoolmaster at Banchory-Ternan, to be Master. Son of Robert S., burgess (Skene, *Memorials*, p. 31); Crombie bursar, 1652; M.A., 1656.
- 1670, Nov. 9 (lv., 269). Mr. John Alexander to be Doctor, in place of Patrick Innes, demitted. Son of late Mr. John A., town clerk; Ross bursar, 1665; M.A., 1669.
- 1672, Feb. 28 (lv., 366). Mr. Robert Alexander to be Doctor, in place of Alexander Innes. Son of late Alexander A., elder, burgess; Liddell bursar, 1666; M.A. [1670]; Liddell tutor, 1671-72.
- 1679, Nov. 19 (lvi., 451). Mr. Alexander Thomson to be Doctor, in place of John Alexander, demitted. Son of Mr. Robert T., advocate; M.A. [1674].
- 1679, Nov. 19 (lvi., 453). Mr. John Findlater, one of the Doctors, to be Master, in place of Skene, who had died in 1676. The place had been kept vacant for three years to allow Dun's Mortification to augment, Findlater having charge of the Master's class, and authority over the other Doctors (lvi., 196, 201).
- 1679, Nov. 19 (lvi., 455). Mr. Gilbert Ramsay to be Doctor, in place of Findlater, now Master. Son of Robert R., merchant; Ross bursar, 1673; M.A. [1677]; minister of Dyce, 1682.

- 1682, Sept. 2 (lvii., 5). Mr. James Troup to be Under-Master, in place of Ramsay. Son of William T. of Balnacraig; Cargill bursar, 1676; M.A. [1680]. The term "Under-Master" is henceforth used instead of, or alternatively with, "Doctor."
- 1684, Dec. 5 (lvii., 145). Mr. Andrew Mitchell to be Under-Master, in place of Thomson, demitted. Son of Thomas M., late baillie; M.A. [1683].
- 1684, Dec. 5 (lvii., 145). Mr. Gilbert Black to be Under-Master. Son of Gilbert B., late baillie; M.A., 1684.
- 1692, Aug. 10 (lvii., 383). Mr. William Gellie to be Under-Master. Son of Patrick G., baillie; M.A., 1692; Dean of Guild, 1712; baillie, 1716.
- 1696, Sept. 10 (lvii., 525). Mr. William Carnegie to be Under-Master. Son of James C., litster, burgess; M.A., 1692.
- 1701, Feb. 12 (lvii., 781). Mr. William Meston to be Under-Master. Rolland bursar, 1694; M.A., 1698; Regent, Mar. Coll., 1713. The Jacobite poet (*Notes and Queries*, 7th s., x. 21. The *Dict. Nat. Biog.* account is not accurate). Meston to teach "elementarians," being distinct from the "four classes," and each doctor to bring up the class *per vices* until they deliver them over to the chief master (lviii., 223).
- 1701, Feb. 12 (lvii., 781). Mr. John Leslie to be Under-Master. Son of John L. of Whytestryps; Milne bursar, 1690; M.A., 1693.
- 1709, Nov. 10 (lviii., 169). Mr. John Milne, schoolmaster, Skene, to be Under-Master in place of Leslie, demitted. Son of William M., farmer, Cairnglass; Milne bursar, 1702; M.A., 1706.
- 1713, Sept. 12 (lviii., 335). Mr. David Couper, teacher in the Grammar School, Perth, to be Under-Master, in place of Meston. M.A., King's Coll., 1705.
- 1714, Dec. 15 (lviii., 383). Mr. William Mackie to be Under-Master, as result of Interlocutor by Lords of Council and Session in Action at instance of Mr. John Leslie. Son of John M., litster; Rolland bursar, 1707; M.A. [1711].
- 17 ? (?). Mr. Patrick Thomson to be Under-Master, in place of Couper; M.A., 1686. [The minute of this appointment has not been found.]
- 1717, Aug. 16 (lviii., 548). Mr. Charles Kay, schoolmaster at Banchory-Devenick, to be Under-Master, in place of Patrick Thomson, deposed by the Royal Commission for visiting the Universities and Schools of Scotland. M.A., 1715.
- 1717, Aug. 28 (lviii., 551). Mr. John Milne, one of the Under-Masters, to be Master, in place of Findlater, deposed by

the Royal Commission. According to the First Report of the Commission (not as yet printed), Findlater intimated to the scholars the arrival of the Pretender in these words: "Cum dies jovis indictus sit solenni gratulationi ob auspiciatissimum serenissimi nostri Regis reditum, scitote die jovis non esse conveniendum"; and further encouraged the scholars "to hiss at some of the other masters, when . praying for your Majesty [George I.]."

- 1718, Feb. 5 (lviii., 584). Mr. Andrew Howieson to be Under-Master, in place of Milne, now Master. Son of late William H., merchant burgess; Rolland bursar, 1699; M.A., 1703. Howieson to "bring up elementarians" who enter in 1722, till ready to be handed over to the Master, and so other Doctors *per vices* (lix., 89).
- 1725, Apr. 14 (lix., 178). Mr. William Stephen to be Under-Master, in place of Mackie, deceased. Son of George S., merchant, and related by his grandmother to the mortifier, Patrick Dun; Liddell bursar, 1721; M.A., 1725.
- 1732, Apr. 14 (lx., 267). Mr. James Dun to be Under-Master, in place of Stephen, deceased. Son of John D., Mains of Campbell; Turner bursar, 1728; M.A., 1732.
- 1736, June 28 (lx., 432). Mr. Charles Dun to be Under-Master, in place of Kay, now insane. Son of late Patrick D., Hillbrae; M.A., King's Coll., 1734.
- 1744, Sept. 29 (lxi., 177). Mr. James Dun, one of the Under-Masters, to be Master, in place of Milne, deceased. LLD., Mar. Coll., 1772, "as a proof and testimony . . . of the services he has done to Literature during the space of forty years in which he has acquitted himself as a teacher of the Latin tongue with great credit to himself and advantage to the town and University of Aberdeen, as well as to the country in general."
- 1745, Jan. 15 (lxi., 189). Mr. John Smith to be Under-Master, in place of Dun, now Master. Son of James S., blacksmith, burgess; Guild bursar, 1735-37; Liddell bursar, 1737-39; M.A., 1739.
- 1747, Aug. 25 (lxi., 297). Mr. Alexander Reid to be Under-Master [in place of Howieson]. Son of John R., Nether Sauchen; Rolland bursar, 1728; M.A., 1732; minister of Kemnay, 1758.
- 1753, Sept. 24 (lxii., 3). The Master, James Dun, to receive an augmentation of salary of 400 merks; the Under-Masters, Charles Dun, John Smith, Alexander Reid, to receive augmentations of 200 merks.
- 1757, Nov. 26 (lxii., 184). Mr. James Smith to be Under-Master, in place of John Smith, deceased.
- 1758, June 20 (lxii., 210). Mr. James Beattie, schoolmaster at

- Fordoun, to be Under-Master, in place of Reid. Son of David B., Laurencekirk; Milne bursar, 1749; M.A., 1753; regent, 1760; LL.D., King's Coll., 1770; D.C.L., Oxon., 1773; author of *Essay on Truth, Minstrel, &c.* Beattie had been a candidate in 1757; see his *Life* by Bower. Portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds in possession of the University, reproduced in the great window, Mitchell Hall, and in *Fasti Acad. Marisc.*, vol. ii.
- 1760, Apr. 23 (lxii., 283). Mr. Alexander Fullerton, schoolmaster at Fetteresso, to be Under-Master, in place of Smith, deceased. M.A., 1757; minister of Footdee, 1774, holding the charge in conjunction.
- 1760, Oct. 30 (lxii., 295). Mr. John Dun to be Under-Master, in place of Beattie, now regent. Son of the Master; M.A., 1761.
- 1770, June 15 (lxiii., 157). Mr. William Laing, preceptor to the children of Mr. William Fraser, Kirktown of Philorth, to be Under-Master, in place of Charles Dun, deceased. Son of William L., Fraserburgh; Cumming bursar, 1762; M.A., 1766; Episcopal minister, Peterhead; M.D. (honorary), 1782.
- 1771, May 11 (lxiii., 182). Mr. James Shirrefs to be Under-Master, in place of Laing, demitted. Son of David S., wright, burgess; M.A., 1770; minister of first charge, Aberdeen, 1778; D.D., King's Coll., 1795; Moderator of General Assembly, 1807; author of *Life of Dr. Guild* and *Sermons*.
- 1778, Sept. 23 (lxiv., 144). Mr. James Cromar to be Under-Master, in place of Shirrefs. M.A., 1770.
- 1787, Dec. 8 (lxv., 198). Mr. Andrew Dun, assistant teacher in the School, to be Under-Master, in place of Fullerton, deceased. Son of Robert D., Alford; M.A., 1781.
- 1791, Aug. 6 (lxvi., 152). Dr. James Dun, and Mr. James Cromar, to be conjunct Masters. Mr. Andrew Dun raises an action for reducing this appointment (lxvi., 175).
- 1796, Jan. 23 (lxvii., 97). Mr. James Cromar is reported to have "absconded"; and Mr. John Dun, who "has not attended or discharged any of the duties of his office for about twenty years past," to have resigned.
- 1796, Jan. 23 (lxvii., 97). Mr. Alexander Leith, for a good many years assistant to Dr. James Dun, to be one of the Under-Masters, or *Ushers*,¹ in place of Cromar. Mr. Andrew Dun raises an action for reducing the appointment (lxvi., 175).

¹ This term appears here for the first time, though in Kennedy's MS. Index to the *Town Council Register* as far back as 1628.

- 1796, Jan. 27 (lxvii., 102). Dr. James Dun, and Mr. Andrew Dun, to be conjunct Masters *or Rectors*.
- 1796, Jan. 27 (lxvii., 102). Mr. James Cromar, junior, assistant master in this school for three years past, to be Under-Master, in place of John Dun. Son of Robert C., Lumphanan; M.A., 1788.
- 1796, Apr. 11 (lxvii., 110). Mr. William Duncan, Montrose, to be Under-Master, in place of Andrew Dun, now Co-Rector. Son of John D., Drumoak; M.A., 1781; Blackwell prize, 1797.
- 1798, March 5 (lxvii., 171). £10 added to the salaries of Andrew Dun, co-rector; Leith, Cromar, Duncan, Under-Masters.
- 1799, Apr. 20 (lxvii., 208). Mr. Robert Forbes, schoolmaster at Inverurie, to be Under-Master, in place of Leith, deceased. M.A., King's Coll., 1780.
- 1802, May 4 (lxviii., 82). Alex. Nicoll (*not styled Mr.*), master in Gordon's Hospital, to be Under-Master, in place of Duncan, deceased. Son of James N., burgess. M.A., King's Coll., 1792.
- 1803, Mar. 1 (lxvii., 109). James Cromar, junior, to be Rector, in place of Andrew Dun, deceased.
- 1803, July 5 (lxviii., 127). James Watt, schoolmaster at Fraserburgh, to be Under-Master, in place of Cromar. Son of James W., Fintray; M.A., 1791; Blackwell prize, 1800 and 1801.
- 1821, May 11 (lxx., 254). James Melvin to be assistant and successor to Nicoll (who died in 1823). Son of George Melvill, merchant; first bursar, 1809; M.A., 1813; LL.D., 1834; lecturer on Humanity, Marischal Coll., 1826-41; author of *Latin Grammar*, &c. See Masson's *James Melvin*,¹ and Ogilvie's *Melvin's Versions*. Portrait by Cassie in possession of the Grammar School, reproduced in the great window, Mitchell Hall, and in *Fasti Acad. Marisc.*, vol. ii.
- 1826, Apr. 21 (lxxi., 140). James Melvin to be Rector, in place of Cromar, deceased.
- 1826, June 9 (lxxi., 149). John Dunn to be Under-Master, in place of Melvin. Son of Peter D., Laurencekirk; M.A., 1805.
- 1835, Nov. 2 (lxxiii., 207). James Dunn to be interim assistant to Watt. Son of Peter D., Aberdeen; M.A., 1823.
- 1836, Nov. 14 (lxxiv., 92). John M. Mitchell to be interim assistant to Forbes. Son of James M., merchant, Aberdeen; M.A., 1833.
- 1837, Oct. 23 (lxxiv., 169). James Ogilvie to be interim assistant to Forbes, in place of Mitchell, gone abroad. Son of Joseph O., merchant, Keith; M.A., 1833.

¹ Ch. xiv. above.

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- 1842, May 30 (lxxvi., 156). James Dunn to be Under-Master, in place of Forbes, deceased.
- 1842, May 30 (lxxvi., 156). James Ogilvie to be interim assistant to Watt.
- 1843, Sept. 11 (lxxvi., 236). James Ogilvie to be Under-Master, in place of Watt, deceased.
- 1844, Oct. 24 (lxxvii., 76). Alexander Beverly to be Under-Master, in place of Ogilvie, Missionary, China; D.D., 1867; demitted. Son of Alexander B., Aberdeen; M.A., with Hon. Dist., 1844; LL.D., 1873. (See *S. N. & Q.*, vii., 102.)
- 1848, Feb. 14 (lxxviii., 117). William Duguid Geddes, school-master of Gamrie, to be Under-Master, in place of James Dunn, deceased. Son of John G., Bodylair, Glass; M.A., King's Coll., 1846.
- 1853, Aug. 1 (lxxx., 92). William Duguid Geddes to be Master, in place of Melvin, deceased. (See *S. N. & Q.*, vi., 170.)

P. J. ANDERSON.

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APPENDIX II

CORRESPONDENCE OF MR. JAMES CROMAR WITH OTHER HEADMASTERS RELATIVE TO FEES AND SALARIES

EDINBURGH, 7 Nov. 1810.

SIR,—I have just received your letter and hasten to answer, as far as I am able, the queries it contains.

The lowest legal fee that can now be paid p^r quarter at the high school is half a guinea, and the proportion of boys that give more is very small. To speak from my own experience, which you are aware is not extensive, I should say, not more than one in twelve.

The present minimum was fixed by the Magistrates about five years ago, before which period the legal fee was lower than even yours, though very few gave less than half a guinea.

We have five payments in the year; the Candlemas dues are very generally considered and paid as a quarter.

A class of 70 boys would with us yield, I think, independent of salary, about £190 per annum. A class of 100 boys is pretty near the average number of late years, perhaps it would be rather below it. The highest class is generally the most numerous, as some boys stay a second year: I have at this time 135, and the lower classes vary from 100 to 120, or even more.

Wishing you and your Colleagues all possible success in the laudable object of increasing both your fees and salaries, I remain with great respect

Sir,

Your most obedt. and humble servt.

(Signed) JAMES PILLANS.

To Mr. JAMES CROMAR,
Grammar School, Aberdeen.

Copy of which the foregoing letter is the answer.

ABERDEEN, 5th Nov. 1810.¹

SIR,—My Colleagues and I, Masters of the Grammar School of this City, have applied to our Magistrates for an increase of our

¹ "The London and Edinburgh Royal Mail Coach sets off from Dempster's Royal Mail Coach Office, 61 Union-street, or Anderson's Royal Mail Coach Office, 5, Castle-street, every

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Living. We have four payments in the year; the highest fee is 7s. 6d. a quarter, more than which none of our young men pay.

Our Magistrates have ordered us to get information from your renowned Seminary, in regard to the fees paid by the young men in Edinburgh. May I therefore take the liberty of begging from you an answer to the following questions:

What is the lowest fee paid at the High School?

By what proportion of your young men is that lowest fee paid, and nothing more?

At what period was your present *minimum* fixed?

Have you four or five payments in the year?

Exclusive of salary, what, with you, would on an average, a class of, say, seventy Scholars, yield to the Master per annum?

Whether in Edinburgh would a class consisting of 100 boys be reckoned a numerous or a thin one?

With great respect

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedt. and Humb. Servt.

JAMES CROMAR.

To Mr. JAMES PILLANS,
*Master of the High School of
Edinburgh.*

PERTH, 16 Novr. 1816.

SIR,—About seven years ago the Quarterly fees of this Grammar School were raised from 5s. to 7s. 6d., and a few days before the receipt of your letter I had, in a conversation with our Provost, given him to understand that we in future expect 10s. 6d., which is the minimum not only in the High School of Edinr. and Glasgow, but in the Grammar Schools of Dundee, Paisley, Greenock, and many other towns. In Perth Grammar School there are just four terms of payment in course of the year, besides the usual gratuity at Candlemas, for which no minimum is fixed.

Almost none of the Scholars pay more than 7s. 6d. at the Quarterly Collection, and as you wish to know what according to our rate a School¹ of seventy would produce in fees exclusive of Salary my

day, at a quarter before 3 o'clock P.M., and arrives at Edinburgh next morning at 6 A.M." *Aberd. Directory*, 1837, p. 135. In 1787, "The Aberdeen and Edinburgh Fly, by Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, Brechin, &c.," 3 times a week, left at 4 A.M., and "arrives at Edinburgh, next Day to Dinner. . . . The Passengers both ways ly at Mr John Campbell's, Innkeeper, Perth, the First Night. . . . Fare 2*l.* 2*s.*" 14 lb. of luggage allowed; "all above to pay 2*d.* per lb. for the whole Distance or in Proportion to the Miles they go." *Aberd. Almanack*, 1787.

¹ Does the term "school," here used of a class, explain the phrase, "Rector scholarum de Aberdene," applied in 1262 to Thomas de Bennum?

opinion is, that the annual amount would not exceed one Hundred and forty pounds or guineas.

Your application for a rise of fees appears to me not only reasonable but absolutely necessary, and you have my best wishes for your success.

A communication of the result would be a favour conferred on, Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM DICK.

To Mr. JAMES CROMAR.

DUNDEE, 12th Nov. 1810.

SIR,—In answer to yours of 6th instant, the lowest and the highest fee, paid at the Grammar School here, is 10s. 6d., paid 4 times per annum, and 5s. handsel. Nobody thinks of paying more than the sum fixed by the Magistrates excepting that perhaps 4 or 5 boys at the whole school, give 7s. or 10s. 6d. each as handsel, instead of 5s., which we have a right to demand. Our fees were raised, by the Magistrates, about a year ago, to their present rate. Formerly we received 7s. 6d. per quarter, and tho' we could then demand no handsel, almost every boy made it equal to the other payments (viz. 7s. 6d.) and nothing more.

There are at present about 120 scholars at the school. From these the Rector receives 3 fifths of the fees, and £70 salary; and the other Master the remaining 2 fifths of the fees, and £40 salary. Besides the above, each boy pays 2s. 6d. yearly, for coal money, for which we uphold 2 fires, and 1s. to the Janitor, who receives his education gratis.

I remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

(Signed) ALEXR. CRAIK.

GLASGOW, 9th Novr. 1810.

SIR,—Your letter of the 6th inst. only came to hand this day. In reply—three years ago the quarterly payments at this school were raised from 7s. to 10s. 6d. More is not offered, and less would not be received. We have a gratuity at Candlemas which, with respect to the amount, is optional on the part of the Parents. In general it may be reckoned equal to a quarter. A hundred is now considered rather a small

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Class. Our bad debts are not numerous. Salary £25 for three years and £35 every fourth year. There are four Masters in this Seminary. The one, who has the oldest Class for the year, has the highest salary, and is nominally rector; but without any jurisdiction whatever. As each begins the Rudiment Class in succession of course each is rector in turn. We have no dwelling house from the Magistrates; only a School room.

If there is any additional information which I can communicate which would benefit your cause, you have only to drop me a line saying what it is. I heartily wish you a large augmentation. They, who less deserve it, *oftener* get it. But our heads have already been long enough under the water, we must raise them now. The Public, of late years, have set a higher value on our labours, and an increase of income will naturally follow.

A particular friend from the country has just called, and, not to lose a post, I must conclude.

First time you or any of your Colleagues come to Glasgow, I will be happy to see you in my house. Excuse this hurried scrawl.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DYMCK.

To Mr. JAMES CROMAR.

APPENDIX III

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS

ATTENDING THE FIVE LATIN CLASSES IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FROM 1796 TO 1874.

1796	141		1823	255	E. 33	1849	276	E. 96
1797	138		1824	221		1850	322	E. 113
1798	151		1825	203		1851	291	E. 79
1799	167		1826	230	E. 30	1852	306	E. 91
1800	161		1827	206	E. 28	1853	319	E. 117
1801	164		1828	190	E. 22	1854	281	E. 71
1802	184		1829	218	E. 24	1855	290	E. 97
1803	182		1830	223	E. 29	1856	209	E. 56
1804	186		1831	213	E. 36	1857	174	E. 41
1805	190		1832	231	E. 19	1858	152	E. 59
1806	171		1833	192	E. 29	1859	116	E. 17
1807	191		1834	176	E. 13	1860	340	E. 197
1808	225		1835	210	E. 21	1861	328	E. 112
1809	234		1836	199	E. 27	1862	353	E. 100
1810	211		1837	174	E. 23	1863	289	E. 62
1811	251		1838	165	E. 15	1864	317	E. 37
1812	257	E. 17	1839	146	E. 21	1865	262	E. 66
1813	223		1840	154	E. 25	1866	240	E. 45
1814	266	E. 27	1841	165	E. 23	1867	202	E. 18
1815	241	E. 27	1842	157	E. 14	1868	168	E. 41
1816	202		1843	139	E. 21	1869	167	E. 20
1817	240	E. 21	1844	193	E. 39	1870	161	E. 17
1818	191	E. 16	1845	229	E. 59	1871	166	
1819	196	E. 21	1846	295	E. 95	1872	192	
1820	202	E. 22	1847	283	E. 87	1873	211	
1821	188	E. 11	1848	304	E. 109	1874	196	
1822	206	E. 17						

[E. stands for Extraneana.]

APPENDIX IV

THE ARMS, INSCRIPTIONS, AND MOTTOES ON THE ARCHERY MEDALS

[For the Medals, see ch. v. The following is from the description given by Mr. J. S. Brook, F.S.A. Scot., in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, 1893-4, pp. 454 ff.]

1. *Obv.* A stag's head cabossed, between the attires a star.
Rev. *Georgius Mackenzieus primo vicit. VM fecit. Cor petit astra velut cervus Anhelat aquas.*¹ VM = Walter Melvil, Deacon of the Hammermen, 1662.
2. *Obv.* Three fraises.
Rev. *Thomas Fraser secundo vicit.*
3. *Obv.* Arg. a hand out of clouds (from dexter side) holding a Banner, in dexter chief a dove volant: above the helmet the initials IB: below the shield—WS *me fecit.*
Rev. *Joannes Bannermannus tertio vicit.* WS = Wm. Scott, goldsmith, admitted burgess in 1666.
4. *Obv.* Within a laurel wreathed border, the arms of Andrew Skene:—three skenes or daggers paleways surmounted on the points by as many wolves' heads couped in base fessways, a crescent for difference in fess point: above the shield the initials AS.
Rev. Within a laurel wreath border—*Virtutis Regia Merces. Andreas Skeene quarto vicit 1667.*
5. *Obv.* Laurel wreath border. Arms of Adam Gordon:—three boars' heads erased: helmeted and mantled: no crest: motto—*byd and*: over all the initials AG: below all WS *fecit 1670.* For WS see No. 3 above.
Rev. *Adamus Gordonus quinto vicit. Regnat post funera virtus.*
6. *Obv.* Laurel wreath border: arms of John Gordon of Breachlie (Brachlie):—three boars' heads erased: helmeted and mantled: no crest: over all the initials IG, and below all—*of breachly.*
Rev. Laurel border: *Delitiis non itur ad astra—Ioannes Gordonus sexto vicit 1672—AGF=Alexander Galloway (goldsmith, admitted a craftsman in Aberdeen in 1671) fecit.*
7. *Obv.* Laurel wreath border: arms of James Moir of Stoneywood (2nd of the family; died 22nd Nov. 1739):—arg. three

¹ An ingenious adaptation of Psalm xlii. 1 to the family cognisance.

negroes' (Mauritanian)¹ heads coupé and distilling guttes de sang ppr.: crest, a negro's head coupé (dividing the initials IM): helmeted and mantled: motto, *maior² opima ferat*.

Rev. Laurel wreath border: *Famam extendere factis hoc virtutis opus—Jacobus Moir septimo vicit* 1673—AGF (*v. sub* 6 above).

8. *Obv.* Border, entwined leaf-ornament: arms of John Skene:—three skenes paleways in fess, on the point of each a wolf's head in a chief, a crescent for difference in fess point: helmeted and mantled: crest, a hand reaching down out of clouds holding a garland: motto—*sors mihi grata cadet*.

Rev. Laurel wreath border: *virtus vera suis Marte vel arte favet—Ioannes Skeene octavo vicit* 1674—AGF (*v. sub* 6 above).

9. *Obv.* A dexter hand holding a sword or dagger joined by a cuff or gauntlet to a sinister hand holding a rose, with the motto—*Marte et Minerva*; all in a laurel wreath border edged on the inside with a thick rope, and on the outside with a fretted border with cup-shaped indentations.

Rev. Arms of the Earl of Findlater:—quarterly, 1st and 4th, arg., a lion passant gardant imperially crowned; 2nd and 3rd, a cross engrailed; helmeted and mantled out of a marquess's coronet: crest, a lion rampant holding a plumb rule: supporters, two lions rampant: motto—*Tout jour*; and below all—*Deskfoord vicit* 1675—AG *fecit* (*v. sub* 6 above).

10. *Obv.* Orpheus charming the beasts, attired in dress of a Roman character, in act to play a violin (instead of the lyre): behind him a dog howling, and in front of him a lion, a horse, and a goat surrounded by trees; the border, two nude female figures with foliated and scaly terminations.³

Rev. Arms of John Udny:—a stag's head coupé between two greyhounds countersalient collared, in chief and in base three fleurs-de-lis two and one: crest a fleur-de-lis: supporters two savages ppr. wreathed about the head and middle, holding in their hands clubs ppr. (curiously showing on the dexter side a front view and on the sinister side a back view of the figure); helmeted and mantled: motto—*al my hop is in God*; below all—*Ioannes Vdnie vicit* 1676.

11. *Obv.* A dexter hand emerging from clouds, holding a curved sword with a branch of laurel on its point and the motto above—*virtute acquiritur*: border as in No. 9.

Rev. The arms of William Keith, 9th Earl Marischal:—arg., on a

¹ A fanciful derivation of the name from *Moors*.

² Another pun on the name *Moir, Moss, Mair*.

³ To represent Dryads and Naiads.

chief three pallets between first and second a crescent; helmeted and mantled: crest, a dove with olive branch in its mouth standing on a duck's head: motto—*innocentia tecta sapientia*; and below all—*Gulielmus Keith filius natu maximus Domini Johannis Keith de Keithall, Scotiæ Equitis Marischally: vicit anno 1677*—VS *fecit* (= Wm. Scott, v. sub No. 3 above).

12. *Obv.* A sinister hand emerging from clouds on the dexter side, resting on the string of a drawn bow, with the arrow pointing downwards, above the hand a human eye, and on the sinister side a laurel wreath; over all the motto—*veni. vidi. vici*: border a laurel wreath with a rosette at top and bottom and a cupped edging outside.

Rev. The arms of Alexander Fraser of Strichen:—quarterly, 1st and 4th, three fraises; 2nd and 3rd, three antique crowns, all within a bordure; helmeted and mantled: crest, a stag's head erased: supporters, two stags ppr.: motto—*vive ut postea vivas*; below all—*Alexander Fraser de Streichen vicit 678*—AG (v. sub 6 above).

13. *Obv.* The arms of Ogilvy of Inverquharity:—a lion passant gardant contourné crowned with an imperial crown; helmeted and mantled: crest, an imperial crown: motto—*a fine*: supporters, two savages wreathed about the middle, each holding a club in exterior hand; below all *Dom Iohannes Ogilvie*.

Rev. An archer of portly form—dress, long coat, double row of buttons in front, pockets with buttons, breeches to knee, shoes and hose, full wig, wide-brimmed round-crowned hat on peg behind—with bow and arrow pointing at a circular target with coiled rope edging; over all the motto—*veni. vidi. vici*; below, *De Innercaritie vicit anno 1679*.

14. *Obv.* Within a raised border decorated with chased beads, the arms of Theodore Morison of Bognie:—az., three saracens' heads conjoined in one neck arg., the uppermost face looking to the chief and affixed by a wreath to the other two, which turn to the dexter and sinister; helmeted and mantled: no crest: motto—*sunt tria haec unum*.

Rev. Within a laurel wreath border—*non magna loquimur sed vivimus*—*Theodorus Morison de Bognie vicit 1699 Anno ætatis 14^{tho} (? mo)*.

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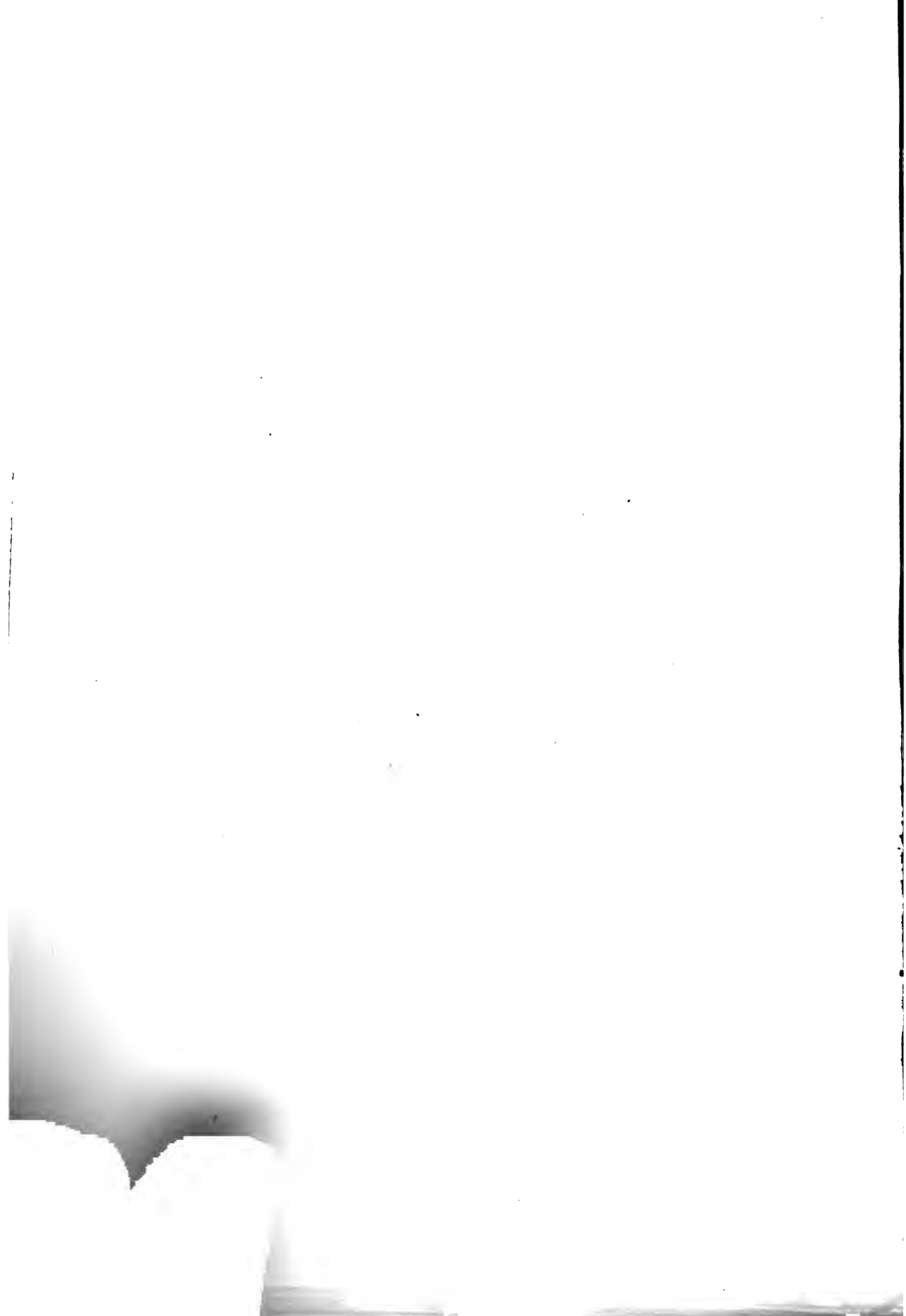
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